Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Major's Defection to U.S. in MiG-23 Reported

FL2103122591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] The Cuban Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces has reported that on the morning of 20 March, Air Force Major (Orestes Froilan Lorenzo Perez) committed an act of treason when, while on a training mission, he flew a MiG-23 combat plane to the United States. The traitor handed himself over to U.S. authorities.

Commentary Views 'Treason and Simulation'

FL2203021191 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0034 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Lazaro Barredo commentary: "Treason and Simulation"]

[Text] Our adversaries in the U.S. Government, who believe we do not have the possibility of surviving and are submitting their wagers on the time when we will collapse, hail treason. The Zanjoneros [traitors] are feeding their euphoria. This would not be surprising if we did not believe that perhaps this is the time, as never before, of the greatest challenge, the most stressful time we have ever encountered, the most definite time of facing life or death.

It is a universal law for rats to abandon ship because they fear danger in the midst of storms, even when the ship sails steadily, guided by an expert sailor through strong turbulence. There have always been Christs accompanied by Judas'. The virtue of a country composed of men and women who value national dignity should also face the vile deed of little traitors.

Although treason will never have an altar where freedom has its most solemn temple, the traitors' utilitarian intentions will not last long there, where they become mercenaries. Many experts, who arrived there with glory and cannot even be remembered now, can attest to this.

Simulation is what causes the most indignation. I believe that it is there, now more than ever, where revolutionaries have to wage the ideological battle. Without acknowledging the particularities of such a crucial moment, these events convince me even more of how just and necessary the leadership of the revolution's thoughts expressed in the call to the fourth congress on these issues were and still are. The certainty of counting on the resounding support of the people—spare us of the unrealistic idea of unanimity which many times is false, mechanical, and formulist and can lead to simulation, double standard, or silencing of views. This shows us, in turn, the need to sponsor a consensus that is based on the acknowledgement of the diversity of views people could have on a same matter at a given time.

The false concept of democratization cannot take us at this time of definitions to avoid seeing what is at stake. What is at stake is the existence of the revolution itself and our national independence.

Marti, in the bleakest times of the Cuban revolutionary movement, when no other alternative was seen as a way out than to once again face the might of the modern Spanish rifles and cannons with the outstanding charges of machetes of the Mambi soldiers, defined the nature of this purpose. He said: During critical times, nations produce men who incarnate nationalistic men.

I do not know if these modern traitors will continue to be men, but they have lost their ability to be nationalistic men. In beautiful [words indistinct] honors as a few days ago, when I heard Sylvio [Rodriguez, popular Cuban singer] singing his latest song, "The Fool." If I used to admire him, I admire him now even more, because at this time of principles, he expressed the feelings of our generation which was never manipulated or deceived about the risks, and he tells those who dream about the famous collapse—which would take us to the slaughter—that the ones who are here, the ones who have in our soul the encouragement of Baragua, will die in the same way we have lived.

Soviet Organization Rejects U.S. Interference

FL2103233591 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2035 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] (Karin Achatua), chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity and Cooperation with Latin America, has asserted that the Soviet Union believes that any linkage of its future economic and commercial ties with the United States to the suspension of Soviet assistance to Cuba is unacceptable. (Achatua) discussed portions of a statement made by this nongovernmental organization regarding a bill the U.S. Congress is examining.

The proposal that the Yankee Congress will consider even contemplates the possibility of implementing economic sanctions against the Soviet Union if it continues to provide aid to Cuba. (Achatua) pointed out that his committee, which reflects the opinion of the Soviet majority, does not accept any interference in its relations with third countries, especially when it involves a legitimate government which is considered a political ally.

Ukranian Leaders Send Letter, Express Gratitude

FL2103184591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] In a letter addressed to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Kravchuk, chairman of the UkSSR [Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet; Gurenko, first secretary of the CPUk [Communist Party of the Ukraine] Central Committee; and (?Bochenko), first secretary of the UkSSR Komsomol Central Committee, express their sincere gratitude to Fidel and the Cuban people for their enormous and unselfish aid to the Ukranian children who were affected by the Chernobyl accident.

Havana Notes Differences of Opinion on CEMA

FL2103142091 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 21 Mar 91

["Our Opinion" commentary]

[Text] The profound changes that have occurred in the economic thinking of the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe must also be reflected in their organization for integration with other countries, CEMA. If we add to this transition to a market economy the disappearance of the GDR and the problems their economies are currently experiencing, we can only say that CEMA is in the process of being completely liquidated.

Although in fact CEMA no longer exists, its replacement, the OIEC [Organization for International Economic Cooperation], must travel a lengthy road to reconcile ways of thinking on the economic level, and these will be influenced in their turn by the political adventures that have come to predominate in some of the former socialist countries. This new organization which replaces CEMA must suffer the vicissitudes arising from what is today a geopolitically unipolar world, and also those emanating from the economic disputes between the United States, the EEC, and Japan.

Although the new organization is not going to set forth its new guidelines until the meeting in Moscow scheduled for 3 to 5 April, already in the recent meeting held five days ago two opposing positions have come to dominate the discussion. Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia maintain an approach in favor of strictly European cooperation based on the above-mentioned changes, which requires focussing their attention on the Old World.

The other countries, even though they have come out in favor of disbanding CEMA, propose the formation of a new organization while retaining some of the ties established over decades in order not to harm the economic structures of the less developed nations; that is, Cuba, Vietnam, and Mongolia.

According to Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, the future organization should be based on consultations and exchanges of information in order to contribute to the rapid development of market economies. As one can imagine, this idea is not shared by other members, including Cuba. What is certain is that Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia are very interested in joining the EEC. Thus, because of their internal changes, they consider cooperation within the CEMA framework an obstacle to their aims.

During the years in which Mongolia, Vietnam, and Cuba participated in CEMA, they were favored with preferential treatment in accordance with their status as underdeveloped countries, and the legal regulations were aimed at raising their levels of economic development to try to bring them up to the level of the other European member countries. One assumes that these forms of aid—assistance under advantageous conditions for building and running industrial facilities as well as loans granted on favorable terms—will give way to information and limited cooperation.

From the meetings that have been held and the statements made by officials in recent days, the transformation CEMA will undergo in the near future will make the three underdeveloped member countries less favored counterparts dependent on bilateral agreements, which are subject to the winds of opportunism and renunciation that are blowing in some European nations.

Castro Addresses Close of Health Conference

CM2203160091 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0135 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz at the closing ceremony of the Third International Seminar on Primary Health Care at the Havana Convention Center on 16 March—recorded; speech includes an exchange between Castro and unidentified members of the audience]

[Text] [Castro] Dear delegates and guests:

I am, undoubtedly, the least appopriate person to close this seminar because my participation in it has been very limited: first, during the opening session and later during the debate on the family doctor. Therefore, I have not had the privilege of hearing everything you have discussed, or the numerous speeches, and the great exchanges of information, facts, and experiences that have taken place here.

I really think you have worked very hard. This started on Tuesday, right? You have worked continuously for five days, and I am not going to make you work harder. I saw some people dozing off over there. [laughter] I truly do not intend to put you to sleep [chuckles] at the end of a meeting, particularly since I said that what I liked best about meetings are the breaks and then the closing ceremony.

I sincerely believe that this has been very useful. I think that you came here to work, and that is what you did. I think this was not a pleasure trip, a tourism trip. I think this seminar became a sort of laboratory or school of medicine which also viewed many other problems such as social problems which are closely related to the field of medicine.

I really should also express our great satisfaction over the fact that this seminar was also attended by outstanding figures, such as the WHO director, the Pan-American Health Organization [PAHO] director, the Southeast Asia office director, and many other officials from regional and international health organizations. The presence of dozens of prominent figures in the health field is also quite satisfying. I would also like to note the presence of a group of outstanding U.S. physicians and scientists, whose presence is also quite gratifying to us.

and that of many Latin American professionals. I would also like to express our happiness that this seminar was attended by large delegations from several countries, among which is the Uruguayan congressional health committee. All the members of Uruguayan congressional health committee, comprising seven deputies from different parties, have attended this seminar.

This shows the special nature of this event and the flourishing of ideas and interest. This is precisely what we need, because these meetings cannot continue to be held, as they have been and will probably continue to be for many years, merely to enumerate our tragedies. The fact that outstanding politicians are attending an international seminar of this nature is evidence that there is a slight hope that in the future not just physicians and scientists will be interested in these issues but also politicians. In the specific case of Uruguay, this is evidence of how Uruguayan politicians and the entire country are interested in doing everything possible in the health field. We are very encouraged by all this.

Many international events are being held in Cuba as well as all over the world. Some of them are education seminars, others are on health, or law, or the economy. I have participated in seminars on health and education, and everything you hear in these meetings is terrible. It is precisely those who work at the grassroots level, the teachers, who suffer the most from the limitations in this sector. Physicians are also in constant contact with the people. This is why they are better informed about all the existing tragedies, and all the statistics, and all that is invested in the health sector, and all that is invested in others sectors. They are also aware of the general lack of support, the lack of resources, the very great lack.

I believe some figures in this regard were mentioned here. I think you mentioned something about 14 billion [currency unspecified] being invested in Latin America—in what?

[First speaker] [Response indistinct].

[Castro] Fourteen billion of what?

[First speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] No, you spoke of 14 million children who die; that is, 40,000 children who die every day; but you also mentioned an economic figure at the very end. You said that about 14 million were squandered.

[First speaker] Fourteen billion.

[Castro] Ah, yes, 14 billion here in Latin America. Is this part of the budget or is it what Latin America spends on health? It cannot be that; the figure has to be much larger.

[First speaker] The unnecessary spending.

[Castro] You say unnecessary spending.

[First speaker] Inappropriate.

[Castro] Or inappropriate.

[First speaker] Unnecessary or inappropriate.

[Castro] Grab the microphone, so that you can help me here.

[First speaker] These are figures provided by the PAHO director on what is considered to be spending that could be done without, unnecessary and inappropriate spending, superfluous medication, technology that is poorly applied. This is three times, or a little more than twice....

[Castro, interrupting] Of course. There are no figures on the total health budget for Latin America and the Caribbean?

[First speaker] This is based on spending throughout Latin America, from different funds, government budgets....

[Castro, interrupting] As you say, this is where the squandering occurs....

[First speaker, interrupting] Government and nongovernment budgets.

[Castro] Everything?

[First speaker] Everything.

[Castro] Do we have the figure for the overall Latin American health budget?

[First speaker] I do not have it with me.

[Castro] This is not known?

[First speaker] I do not have it. I do not have it.

[Castro] In spite of all the information provided here in millions of brochures?

[Second speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] How much?

[Second speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] Government budgets or total spending, including social security and private medicine?

[Second speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] That would appear to be the equivalent of $100 per inhabitant. It appears to be that. Some 400 million inhabitants in Latin America and the Caribbean, with 40 billion in total spending, would be $100 per inhabitant. That is be more or less what we have here.

[Second speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] We know how it is distributed. It is very interesting because there is spending. We should be able to draw a conclusion. We are at about 900, right. [Public Health Minister Julio] Teja? Of course, one does not

know today what a peso, or a dollar, or anything is equivalent to. There is no way to measure it. It is a unit of measurement. When we want to have an idea, more or less, we say peso or dollar. You can buy many more things here with a peso than with a dollar in the United States, but the dollar has turned into a sort of universal currency. We try to keep the peso more or less equivalent and use the dollar in calculations. In Cuba, it would be around 900, right? It reached how much?

[Teja] One point one billion.

[Castro] Then they say around here that spending is reduced. What is that? Did you reach 1.1 billion?

[Teja] Yes, 1.1 billion.

[Castro] When? In which year? In 1991?

[Teja] The thing is that it includes the area of social security which takes care of the homes for the elderly....

[Castro, interrupting] Are you referring to the old people's homes and all that?

[Teja nods]

[Castro] What else?

[Teja] The area of education.

[Castro] Oh, education is included. Yes. The 22 medical schools.

[Teja] Exactly.

[Castro] Sure, of course. Was this not included before? This used to be included before. About three years ago it was around 900 million.

[Teja] Public health alone should be around 900 million.

[Castro] The budget was 900 about three years ago. I believe so. Anyhow, this means that.... [changes thought] The 14 billion that were mentioned here now have great meaning because it is unquestionable that there is waste. It is unquestionable that if resources were distributed better they could yield better results. I am not going to say that they are going to yield the results we get here. Of course, I have no intention of attempting to turn this type of seminar into a political meeting.

I do not even want to give the slightest impression in that regard. I am aware that the achievements we have made are related to our system. It is not really difficult; the achievements, productivity, and the efficiency reached in relation to health spending are also very much related to the system, but as I mentioned here the other day, many, many things can be done to have a greater efficiency in health spending and to improve health levels in our countries. I am absolutely convinced of that.

I was explaining that in all these meetings on health, education, and other meetings of a social nature also, what is expressed everywhere is bitterness, discontent, dissatisfaction, pain, and despair. It has now been said here that at the rate we are going, by the year 2025 we will reach the health rates the U.S. had in 1960. It is not so? Well, that is an illusion. At the rate we are going, I do not know from where they got that or how they reached these conclusions.

Some indices can be improved, we know that some indices can be improved, but we do not see any improvements. We really do not see an effort aimed at improving them. This is the same as the issue of health care for everyone in the year 2000. In what year 2000 is there going to be health care for everyone? They will have to change that slogan soon. At the rate we are going, at the rate we are going [repeats], health care for everyone will be achieved in the year 3000.

It is not serious; it is a noble and just goal. The intention is right but reality is turning it more and more into an utopia, into a dream. When will this happen? No, there are still many problems that need to be analyzed to find out if human health is going to improve or become worse. Many mysteries still need to be explained, like the famous hole in the ozone layer and its effect on health, for example. All the consequences, all the results of the greenhouse effect, as it is called, are still to be seen in the diet, health, and living conditions of the population.

The results of the increasing pollution, the poisoning of the seas, rivers, lakes, and air are still to be seen. Some of these phenomena are a consequence of the use of fossil fuels, and yet we do not see a reduction in their use but an increase. Right now, hundreds of oil wells are burning in Kuwait as a result of the war. The television has shown some pictures of prominent people who have gone to visit that inferno. It is not known how many tons those burning wells are releasing into the atmosphere every day.

All the effects of environmental pollution on health and on the dietary standards of the population are unknown. The use of pesticides in the production of food is greater and greater. The number of plant diseases is increasing as a result of climate changes. I see the amount of spraying that is necessary for tomatoes, potatoes, or any given crop, and I wonder to what extent the residual effects of all those chemical products used have been studied.

In sum, there are still a number of imponderable factors, aside from the threats of war that may exist. If the problem of hunger is not solved, then the health indices that are talked about for the year 2000 will be further and further away. There is really no reason to be pessimistic about this. Nevertheless, we have a duty to struggle. We have a duty to be optimistic. We have a duty to think that something can be done and that we need to do something, even when one wonders how. We know that many political ideas are going through a crisis, such as socialist ideas themselves, as a result of mistakes, disasters, and all those things. There has been talk here about neoconservatism [neoliberalismo]. The consequences already seen in health were expressed. I believe that you

expressed it through the reduction of public spending, is that not so? Of the share of public spending in health services. Neoconservatism is in style in everything, the privatization of everything, even of the streets.

There are countries in Latin America where some streets have been privatized, as well as parks, in addition to roads. There is a brutal tendency toward privatization and the seeking of solutions through the market economy. We have had market economy since the time of Christopher Columbus. We have had centuries of market economy. What has it solved? What happened to the inhabitants, with the former inhabitants of this hemisphere? What happened for centuries? What did colonialism, which is a direct product of capitalism, leave us? It did not leave us a thing. We know what it left us. It left us 4 billion hungry people. This is what capitalism, colonialism, and the market economy have left us. The market economy has been sought as the solution of all problems such as education, health, and even safety. Many jails have been privatized.

It is very important to struggle under these circumstances, at this time of ideological crisis. Will the wave of neoconservatism pass? It will pass. How could it not pass? [chuckles] The peoples are going to learn through their own experiences and not through books. They are already learning what neoconservatism is. What are we going to sanctify now? Debts? Interest rates? Unequal trade? Plundering? During the discussion the figure $200 billion in this decade was mentioned.

I started to figure it out at one time. I calculated all the gold and silver that had been taken out during three centuries of colonialism. I realized that in one year alone, Latin America is exporting more capital now in a single year than all the gold and silver extracted during three centuries. You can imagine [chuckles] the level of plundering to which we are subjected. The people will experience this firsthand. The wave will pass, but will we have to wait for the wave to pass to attempt to do something?

During the discussion, the subject of universities was mentioned; that attempts should be made to train a humane or humanistic physician. But, are the conditions present so the universities can train that physician in the middle of the wave of neoconservatism and the exaltation of the capitalist system, every man for himself, and the law of the jungle? I ask myself if this is truly possible. The comrade representing the students said some interesting things. I listened to her and I thought they were very interesting, especially when she said that the humanistic nature is found in a new generation of citizens who have been educated with different concepts. This is the case not only of physicians. One would have to say that that humanistic spirit is generally found in all the new university graduate professionals and not only in physicians. Of course, it is especially found in physicians. We have made efforts so it will be present in physicians.

The struggle is very difficult. The least we can say regarding the circumstances is that we should all struggle in our countries, in our fields, to improve medical care and health conditions of the population. We need to continue to struggle a lot. We need to continue perfecting what we have and overcoming the deficiencies we still have. They can be other types of battles; they are no longer technological. They can be social in nature or regarding education; for example, the battle against smoking that we have to wage. It is big, simply big. What education measures can we adopt? What type of economic measures? In spite of the fact that we have never followed the policy of low prices for alcohol or tobacco. On the contrary, we have followed the policy of low prices for milk and foodstuffs but not for these vices.

What type of arrangement can we have to get better success in this battle? [Words indistinct] we watch the alcoholism matter quite a bit, and we are willing to prevent this from being a problem here, of course. We have problems with early pregnancy. This is a battle we are waging. We have not won it completely. Progress is being made, according to what family doctors said here.

We have to wage the battle against too many abortions. This reflects deficiencies in sexual education or indifference and laziness—still—among many of our young people. We are waging battles against phenomena such as the spread of the AIDS virus through various measures including publicity and public education. We have to see to what extent those instruments produce efficient results. We have been able to achieve efficiency in halting the spread of AIDS by testing the blood of each donation, of each blood product.

The fact that the drug problem is virtually nonexistent helps us a lot. The incidence we have in that area is insignificant. This helps us. I also observe the way in which sometimes there is a lack of concern among our young people. I believe there is overconfidence in our country. They have so much confidence in the health system, in medicine, and the successes of medicine that they believe any problem—of one kind or another—will be solved for them.

I would say there is a certain overconfidence among our population in the fight against some of these types of illnesses. I tell you that there is a lot left for us to fight against. We have a program to continue fighting.

The fight against sedentary lifestyles is one of the battles. It is an area in which we have to work. We need to get to the day in which all the elderly people have their centers and participate in exercise programs. We are making progress but we are far from having exercise programs everywhere. The matter of diet and poor eating habits is a large field in which we still have to fight. Dr. Jordan explained to us very eloquently about everything that can still be done against accidents. So, there is no country without tasks and big goals.

Ours is to reach an infant mortality rate lower than 10 [not further specified]. Will we be able to achieve this

under the circumstances of the special period? Will we be able to achieve it? It is one of the challenges we have. The special period also places limitations on other resources. I am not going to talk about budgets but of resources.

We have had to stop new construction programs, the construction of public programs, housing programs, programs for new hospitals, programs for new polyclinics. It is not that we do not have enough polyclinics. We have enough everywhere but some are located in remodeled buildings. We want them to be in new buildings with all the facilities such as the new ones we have built. We had a program we had been carrying out.

We have.... [corrects himself] We used to have special education school programs. We have continued building the ones that were under construction but we are not going to begin building new ones. We had ambitious child care center programs. We completed the ones that were under construction but we are not beginning a new child care center or hospital program. In sum.... [changes thought] Of course, we are working with what we have and what was under construction. We have accumulated a lot. I am not saying that we are going to go without in this field of health. In the family doctor program, we have had to reduce the number of consultation offices/houses. Our program was going faster, fast as it was mentioned here. We will continue to add thousands of doctors, but we cannot continue at the same pace for the community doctor program, which is the one prioritized by us. We are going to continue it. We are seeing what we can do, because it is very distressing for us to slow down the pace.

This is something that should have been completed by 1994 or 1995 for 100 percent of the population. Now we have no certainty that it will be completed by that time. This program may be delayed two or three years before completing it 100 percent. All this is a result of the economic situation that has been created for us because of the disaster in Europe, added to what has existed for a long time, which is the strict and ever more strict embargo by the United States.

Therefore, we also have a restriction in terms of facilities of this kind. Some of these facilities.... [changes thought] What is school for disabled children? A special education school is a hospital. It is a combination education and health care installation. When you visit a school for visually impaired children, children with amblyopia and all those cases, you can see that the diseases the children have are cured. Many, the vast majority, of the problems are cured. The school is a hospital. Special education schools are also hospitals because they deal with people who need special attention, whether they have a physical defect or a hearing or visual impairment. They need to be educated and trained, improved, improved [repeats] and taught to take care of themselves.

In short, we also find ourselves subject to these limitations. They are making us undergo a difficult test. How can our indices be maintained? Will they become better? Will they become worse? Of course, we are making tremendous efforts so that they do not become worse, and even so that they will become better. All the available resources that can be found are given as a priority to health care.

Now we have very good and beautiful health programs, but in a special situation. We will have more doctors. Those we have will know more each day, they will have more knowledge. We will have more specialists in general medicine, and the organization of work can operate better. That is a subjective factor; we have the major resources in that subjective factor. We hope we will not be short of essential medicines. We even hope to have new medicines produced here. We are in the same boat as you with regard to limited resources, although at a much more developed level in this field, at a much more advanced level.

If we can maintain our indices during the special period for a number of years, it would be a success. We could do it because of what we have built up during these 30 years. For a period like this, the family doctors will undoubtedly play a very important role. This is one of the topics that was discussed here quite a bit. I myself learned new information in the few hours I participated in the seminar, because this is a field in which we already have accumulated some time. It has been about seven years since we began with the first 10. Right now we have covered entire regions, entire municipalities, which allows us to do a large number of analyses and draw the right conclusions.

So the family doctors are something that in their practical application have given us much more than we ourselves expected. I was convinced of this, of course: that development, as in everything, would contribute many new things and many new ideas. The family doctor thing was based on the principle that the doctors would have to go wherever there were people. If there are people at a factory, that is where a doctor should be. If there are people at a school, that is where a doctor should be too. If there are people in a town, that is where a doctor should be. [chuckles] The family doctors would be for society what the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution are. They would be the committees for the defense of the population's health. [chuckles]

This arose at a time when the technocrats wanted us to stop training more doctors. They said we had too many doctors, there are too many doctors. So there are too many doctors, or there will be too many doctors? Because for them, it was only the hospital network: general hospitals, specialized hospitals, and polyclinics. This was explained here with all its drawbacks. When some people believed we had the last word in health matters, with that whole network of health care centers, the statistics here reflected quite a few of the gaps that could occur with that system.

I wonder.... [changes thought] The technocrats wanted to.... [changes thought] You have to be careful with the

technocrats. Sometimes they do a lot of harm with their ideas and their things, their degrees, even. They will ruin any country if you let them. It is always difficult to prevent them from ruining a country, because the technocrats are powerful, sometimes more powerful, sometimes less powerful. They are all dangerous, and all the more dangerous the less you know about them. I asked them: If there are too many doctors, why, each time a high-ranking delegation goes abroad, does one, two, or three doctors go along? Why? Why does a little group or a cadre or a leader or somebody need a doctor when they travel and an ordinary citizen does not?

So there were not too many doctors. That was the battle. The battle was not, however, waged alone. We continued the battle for health, especially in the last 10 years, and especially starting with the dengue epidemic in 1981. I am convinced that it was introduced into the country. I have a lot of facts to base this judgement on; I am not going to repeat them. Health was also a battle that began with the embargo. The attempt to take away all our doctors forced us to fight against the United States in this field. If a doctor leaves, we will train doctors.

We will develop the medical schools, develop medicine, because they wanted to wipe us out by wiping out our population's health, among other things. Medicine became a battlefield. Medical schools were developed. The number of students was increased, but there came a time when the need for university graduate professionals in the country was so high that there were not enough graduates from the preuniversity schools. At one time this limited entries into the medical schools, but at the time when the dengue epidemic occurred, we had been taking a lot of measures.

The dengue epidemic reinforced our intention to fight and to strengthen the mechanisms to defend the country's health. Although many measures had been taken—dozens had been taken—more or less by that time there were many people in the medical schools who did not come from the preuniversity schools. They had been health workers who had bettered themselves, who had entered the medical schools. You could enter up to age 35. It was necessary to rectify many of these things.

We then had a lot of students in the preuniversity schools. We then had all the students for the medical schools that we wanted. So we said, well, we should develop the medical schools as much as possible and put medical schools in all the provinces. Now all the provinces, all 14 provinces, have their own medical school. Havana, of course, has several. We developed this, in many places with plans to build the medical schools. The medical schools in the provinces are more complete than those in the capital. The buildings, the equipment, are newer, more modern. This was a concept, to increase the number of.... [changes thought] Just the opposite of what the technocrats wanted. They think there are too many doctors? Well, we are going to bring the doctors to the community. We are going to bring the doctors to where the people are. So we began to multiply, multiply [repeats] them.

Added to all this was another factor: a growing demand for doctors in other countries. So we took measures in this regard, and we had the privilege of selecting the students better. It was with this in mind that the Carlos J. Findley Detachment of Medical Students was created, as was mentioned here. Most of these family doctors, most of these family doctors [repeats], came from the Carlos J. Findley Detachment. Selection was by vocation and by academic achievement. Special regulations were issued for university students, even stricter than for other students in everything to do with academic cheating and all that kind of thing. Because we cannot allow [chuckles] a doctor to cheat in school.

Another problem that came up was working out a new medical curriculum, after sending delegations of professors to the most famous medical schools in the world to look at teaching methods, bibliography, materials, programs, and everything. Then all this was processed by all the professors, and based on all the experiences and specific conditions of our country and the goals we had set, a new medical curriculum was worked out. It is not easy to bring in all these things, because there is a curriculum under way and then you begin with the first- and second-year students and introduce the new curriculum little by little, everything concerning the medical textbooks, and everything concerning the textbooks for specialists.

These were all measures that as a whole in one way or another.... [rephrases] Some had to do with medical technologies, the introduction of new technologies. We worked in a special way in many fields after 1981. Well, pediatric intensive care began in 1981. In the midst of the dengue epidemic we began to build the pediatric intensive care units. Now there are these pediatric intensive care units in some Latin American countries, because we have transferred to them our experience, and since in this case the costs are not very high, we were able to donate the equipment for pediatric intensive care.

We realized that pediatric intensive care was saving many lives that could not have been saved without the conditions of intensive care. Of all these measures, the one about the family doctors was, in my opinion, the idea that will have the most influence on the future of our people's health. Today it is a reality. It was not an idea about which we said: Let us implement it, because it is a pretty theory. We began with 10, as was said here, to follow that example, and we followed that example. That was a demonstration of the quality of our young doctors.

Of course, the first 10 were outstanding kids. They were not ordinary. We saw some problems; for example, when a patient had some problem, they would take him to a hospital. When they had to take a patient to a hospital, they would go with him, and sometimes, sometimes [repeats], well, they went, they found a car, they took him

to the hospital, and they paid for it out of their own pockets. Their wages were not very high; they were modest wages, as doctors have when they start out. When I saw this problem I was concerned and I tried to find a solution. I told them: Why do not you keep a log of each case in which you have to pay and then tell us so that you will not lose and will be compensated every month for what you have spent for transportation, for taking patients to the hospital.

Well, they agreed, very unwillingly, but time passed and when I asked about the logs and expenses, there were no logs or expenses, and they did not want to keep logs or be compensated one cent. Fortunately.... [rephrases] I said: How are we going to solve this problem? The residents had such great respect for the doctors, such esteem, that they were the first ones to try to keep this from happening by any means. It was gradually resolved that way, simply, spontaneously, as the residents did not allow it as soon as they realized what this situation was, this situation we had seen.

This gives an idea of the quality of those doctors. We followed this experience, and it was developed. There were a lot of ideas. A lot of problems were discovered which had always been ignored. The number of those who went to the polyclinics was discovered, and those who did not go, those who went directly to the hospitals, those who were vaccinated, those who were not vaccinated, and all those problems that always appear in a society. They discovered house calls. There were a lot of people who went to the hospital simply to have their blood pressure taken every three hours or something, every certain number of hours. They were admitted to the hospital because they had to have their blood pressure taken.

There were a number of things, and the family doctors discovered that they could do these things in the homes. This saved on hospital admittances, because one of the things we did not know was whether the family doctors would increase hospital admittances or not. That is, if there was greater care, greater knowledge, and more things discovered, it could be that hospital admittances would increase. That was one of the things we did not know. Another thing was, as I already explained, whether the people would have confidence [in the doctors] or not. Would they stop going to the hospitals and overworking the staff on duty?

So, in time, in practice, especially when we had complete polyclinics and entire municipalities covered, we could study all this. We began to discover many beneficial things like this, the idea of house calls, this aspect. We began to see that the overburdened offices at the hospitals began to become less crowded. That is, the consultations with the, what do you call them?

[Unidentified speaker] The staff on duty.

[Castro] The staff on duty at the hospitals. We began to see that the people had confidence [in the doctors]. We began to see they no longer even went to the polyclinics. They went to the family doctors. Many of these practices were developed. Connected with this, many problems had to be solved involving the professors. One of the problems, and one of the measures, was the creation of the specialty. Here anyone who was a general practitioner had not studied anything else, in general.

Some had notable practices, notable experience. There was a tendency for specialties to increase, which we halted. We said: However many there are now, stop it there. Not one more specialty. They would end up making all kinds of specialties, even a specialty in the big toe of the left foot. They said: We must create a new specialty. We must create a new one, a specialty in integrated general medicine. I think this was very important, a concept associated with... [rephrases] because everyone was a specialist in something and no one was a specialist in general things, exactly.

They did not study methodically and systematically to become specialists in integrated general medicine. How was all this to be resolved? How can we do this if they are there in the doctors' offices? That is when the idea arose of turning the offices into teaching centers, and the specialists with offices became professors of the integrated general medicine program. Also, we had previously made all the hospitals teaching hospitals. What is this about having one teaching hospital, if there are medical schools in all the provinces?

All the provincial hospitals and all the municipal hospitals have to be teaching hospitals because that is where the interns went, and because, of course, everyone always had great respect for teaching hospitals. That is where the professors were, the prominent figures. The medical staff at the teaching hospitals felt very good. The hospitals, the polyclinics, must also become teaching hospitals. This would now allow.... [rephrases] That is why we could not put the doctors there in isolation, but rather associated with a polyclinic. This is what we did. There are regions that are saturated and others where there is not even one, because this cannot be organized any other way except through the network of polyclinics.

I am talking about the initial ideas, the initial experiences. We heard the professor when he told us about things that showed great development in the concepts about educating doctors and continual training. In short, this has been a breeding ground for new ideas, a laboratory for new ideas. This is what the family doctor program has become. Then we began to observe the doctors' social impact, their effect on society, their influence on the social environment. At the beginning we believed in all these possibilities, but in a general way. We had not had a concrete idea of each and every one of the things that happened later, and each and every one of the fruits the family doctors brought.

That is why we have a great desire to complete the network. We can still see the future when there are tens of thousands of specialists in integrated general medicine. It is a future, a day, in which the doctors direct

health. They will be the ones to direct health, because only they will really have the greatest knowledge about the society's health problems, and the full importance of preventive medicine, and the full importance of what happens where they are and where they live. They are tremendously respected by the population; they have very high respect in all aspects—to the extreme, even that in any neighborhood there may be a thief, but would he steal from the family doctor? Even the criminals respect something; that is, the family doctor, in general.

Now, one may wonder, I wonder, what is a hospital? What was it in the old concept? What was a polyclinic? A hospital was where a man or woman came, as social abstractions. He had never seen that doctor; that doctor had never seen him. He knew nothing about him. He had no clinical history. So two people met there. It was a meeting of two people, neither of whom knew anything about the other. The doctor does not know who he is, how he lives, what problems he has, nothing.

At the polyclinic, one assumes it is closer and that one may come to know a doctor, and one out of 32,000 or 30,000 or 25,000 may come to know a specialist. A patient will not have great confidence in them if he knows that probably the ones sent there were the ones who did not study, who did not have the best records, etc. That doctor at the polyclinic may come to know what that person's name is and what illness he has, but he will not know anything more. The patient continues to be an abstraction who has come there with a problem, and the doctor knows nothing about the patient's life.

He has no possibility of influencing the patient's life, the circumstances that surround the patient's life. It is simply an incomplete institution. So then, all these things can be seen with great clarity after the institution of the family doctor was created. Now it has been subjected to the test of a certain number of years and widespread application, which is very important, to the extent that it has reached 58, almost 60; we will exceed 60 this year. [number reference unknown] We do not have the resources to say we are going to continue at the same rate of increase of doctors in the community.

This has taught us a lot. Now we must continue to observe this laboratory, because I am sure that it will give much more. It can give more, much more still. I believe that some day we will have a complete health system, some day, with very close interaction between the work of all the doctors. The doctors did not know each other, working in the polyclinics. Now the family doctor goes to the hospital with his patients. Now because of this you do not have to go to the emergency room, with all the problems this can resolve. The polyclinics have improved a lot also, because we have put radiology services in many of them 24 hours a day, for example. There are emergency services there at the polyclinics. The polyclinics are now open day and night for anything that must be done there.

Now, this doctor on duty could give some patients poor care in a hospital, or he might give them deficient care, or he might forget about them. It is very unlikely today that someone would dare to mistreat the patient of a family doctor, that someone could forget about the patient of a family doctor, or do something negligent or careless or any of those things, because the family doctor is there, and then he follows up. If the patient has a heart attack, he visits him and he meets with him and checks if he is complying strictly with all the instructions he was given.

This results in high quality; this has to result in great quality in health care services, without even mentioning the most important thing the family doctor has to do, which is to prevent illness, prevent accidents, prevent early pregnancy, prevent heart attacks, not treat them, prevent problems or strokes because of hypertension. This is his number one task. This is the number one concept, in which there is a world of things to do, of course. He must organize the elderly, promote exercise, fight smoking, fight everything. Family doctors must have certain qualities, because they set an example for their patients.

This is the battle we have been waging. Like all new ideas, it did not catch on easily. Some things have already been said here about the battles that had to be fought so that this would be understood among the students themselves, among the students themselves [repeats], among the professors themselves, and the specialists. There were many people who understood this and saw the value and importance of all this. So I do believe it will become a system.

Now, I will tell the truth. If we had private medicine in our country, we would not be able to do what we are doing at the level we are doing it. On a given scale, something can always be done, on a given scale [repeats], in certain areas more than others. Our doctors have renounced the practice of private medicine. There is no law in Cuba that prohibits private medicine. There is a pledge of honor by students, from the first classes, which is to work in the service of social medicine. There are still a few private doctors left in Cuba; do not imagine that there are not. There must be 30 or 40, more or less. They are respected, and they can practice their profession, but it was by this means, by voluntary means, that we gradually eradicated them.

Now we can make a complete national system. You may ask: Can any other socialist country do this? There are some that can do it; I do not know them all. The ones I did know could not, because they had not prepared people for this task. People must be trained to do this work, from before they enter the universities. Some turned to specialization from the first year; that is, there were no doctors in integrated general medicine. Others alienated people one way or another, by commercializing them, even.

If a professional is commercialized, and only wants to make money.... [changes thought] This was introduced into some of these countries. Some of these countries, a few that I know of, they did not have the medical personnel to establish a system like the one we are trying to establish. If you do not have the people, it is not possible. I am not talking now only about systems. There may be a system without having suitable doctors to carry out this task or this work. Fortunately, these two circumstances were present in our case.

We do not claim nor can we claim to be a model in this. A model is not a model. It would be an abstract model. If we get away from the conditions of the social system, the specific conditions of each country, the most that can be borrowed in the vast majority of the countries of the world—especially in the Third World, which is what most concerns us—the most that can be borrowed are ideas, experiences, possibilities, greater knowledge of what is happening in society with respect to health. That is why we cannot claim to be a model.

We can point out the successes we have achieved, and the defects, and the successes we have not yet achieved. As far as prospects, I am convinced, absolutely convinced, that for now we do not know, we do not know [repeats], nor can we imagine a system that shows more promise than the one we are trying to build and which will take years yet. Now, we can take advantage of the experience accumulated. You cannot tell how much that is worth, because a good idea here spreads immediately to everywhere. They do something in one province, and in another, and there is a creative spirit about all this.

In economic aspects, we should not forget that we base ourselves on a different theory, not that of costs, but rather that a given social system, whatever you want to call it, has to try to optimize the use of human resources. We start from the premise that socialism makes no sense if it is not capable of optimizing human efforts and resources. If it leaves this to spontaneity, to crazy, blind market laws or whatever, these laws will never be able to create an ideal conception, or allow the development of something that is absolutely rational.

What happens? Tremendous underutilization of human resources. Capitalism is concerned with whether economic resources are underutilized, with whether it achieves maximum efficiency or not, but it is not concerned with whether it underutilizes human resources, which are the most important thing. I say that if there is a system, when human beings consider themselves civilized and are almost exploring space, the most important thing is that it is able to make optimum use of human resources. For whose benefit? For the benefit of society. If it does not achieve this, well, it may be that human beings are not civilized enough yet; they have not yet advanced far enough in social matters to be able to set up a rational society.

A rational society has to try to use human resources optimally to meet a maximum of society's needs of all kinds—material needs, health, education, or cultural needs, or whatever. This is the aspiration to seek a society.... [rephrases] Throughout history there have been a lot of people and a lot of philosophers who have tried to imagine a perfect society. Of course, when a society can have 25, 30, 35, 40 percent of its resources, of its human resources, not being used, this is a terrible thing. The idea is catastrophic. Even in the most developed capitalist countries there is great underutilization of human resources.

There is also a lot of bureaucracy. Do not imagine that bureaucracy is the exclusive heritage of socialism. There is a lot, for different reasons, including pressure from the people themselves. If a problem in one place can be solved by hiring 50 people, they demand... [rephrases] the union demands 300. Now, we also have a lot of people who are being underused. We have not succeeded in optimizing. It should be that the day there are too many people, work hours will be reduced. Many things can be done.

It makes no sense to have a man doing nothing, and a man doing nothing is an expense. He eats, he travels, he needs shoes. Often he has one relative or another who helps him, and he is a cost to society. Based on this idea, we say: Instead of having people on inflated payrolls at work centers, factories, and all that—and there are a lot—or in offices, it is better for us to train those young people as doctors, nurses, teachers, give them training and use them in an optimal way.

That is, if we are going to have a surplus of people, we are going to train them and have them work at least in providing services for the entire society. This is our aspiration, that those 40,000.... [changes thought] By the end there are going to be about 52,000, because I calculate that between communities, factories, schools, etc., and child care centers there will be about 26,000 people, count in replacements for them and there will be about 60,000 in all, which are 60,000 people to provide this service.

I am not talking about health, because hospital services are more expensive. It was well said here that there was a time when for every 15 people who went to a polyclinic, one went to the hospital. Now it is that of every 240 people, one goes. How much do hospitals cost, and how many staff members does a hospital have? So the hospital system is unquestionably much more expensive. If you have put 60,000 people in, the day this network is completed, you will have less than 1 percent of the country's inhabitants. Possibly it may be around 1 percent of the economically active population. In any country, you will find.... [rephrases] In a country with 10 million people you will find 1 million unemployed. Any country like ours with 10 million inhabitants has 1 million unemployed now.

Is it not better for us to have these people providing these services? Which is even more—not more useful, which no one doubts, but which is more economical? That is

our aspiration as a society, to optimize human resources. Now I am talking about this field, but I could say the same thing about the teachers. I could say the same thing about the scientists. I could say the same thing about many areas. They said there were too many, that suddenly there was a surplus of doctors? Why not send other doctors to study and put these to work? Why not give them a free year so they can study for the famous sabbatical year, to continue that concept of continual training for professionals? Why not take a professional who spent seven years working and give a year of study to a specialist, a specialist in integral general medicine?

There have to be more. There have to be too many teachers and professors if this goes along with a little technological development of production. The tendency is for there to be too many. What is the big problem with industrial reconversion in the developed capitalist countries? The people who are surplus, and they cannot find anything to do with them. If there is automation, robotization, and productivity is raised.... [changes thought] For example, we used 350,000 workers to cut cane in 1970. Today about 50,000 are used, 50,000 or 60,000. We have saved 300,000 workers thanks to machines. Machines free the labor force and allows us to have more human resources available.

It is a disaster if we do not know what to do with the human resources. For example, a man and a woman come into the world without knowing why, and they have no chance. They are merchandise waiting for someone to buy them as labor force. They are fourth-rate merchandise, or who knows what rate. These are the concepts we base ourselves on, and we must keep all this very much in mind. We will continue accumulating all our experiences and transmitting them, and we will continue organizing the seminars because they can be useful for other countries, but the model cannot be made just like that. No one can imagine that, and I do not believe that none of you imagine that, of course. These are ideas that have to be associated with the analysis we make, but we are making it.

I am sure that this laboratory will give many more experiences and will enrich the arsenal of knowledge and information of all those who, like yourselves, are concerned about these matters.

I should add something, another idea that I believe it is appropriate to note. I believe—and I said it during that meeting—that a lot can be done in spite of all the problems. We have to fight to do what can be done within the system. I have no doubts about this, no doubts. I believe that the [infant mortality] rates in Latin America can be reduced from 60 or 65 or 70 [not further specified], which is the average they have now, to 30. It would not even be expensive. With what is available now, with a little effort, with a little will, a little will [repeats] to reduce the infant mortality rate, it can be reduced to 30. I am going to say more: I believe it could even be reduced to 25. The ability to do this is available now.

The regional and world health organizations know this. They know how much the oral rehydration envelope costs. Oral rehydration saves many people even in the case of cholera epidemics. Those envelopes cost centavos. Who knows about those 14 million children who die.... [rephrases] Would this not bring up another issue? How are the 14 million going to eat if 12 million could be possibly saved? The other problem comes up. What are they going to eat? What is going to happen when they reach their first birthday? What is their life expectancy? What kind of life are they going to have? How is the matter of weight in relation to age going? All those rates need to be considered.

Many problems could be solved. Of course, physicians are not going to solve them. They could advocate the need for improvements, changes, but they are not going to solve the social problem. The social problem is the tragedy of today's world. It is something that has no answer. The problem of poverty, hunger, and all of those phenomena have no answers. The world does not have an answer to those problems. I do not know that someone is going to believe that they are going to be solved with neoconservatism.

All the housing problems, cases in which the cities are surrounded by millions of people living under the worst imaginable conditions, the migration from the countryside to the city, the increase in unemployment, all those problems cannot be solved by physicians. This cannot be expected of them. Physicians can cooperate with many things but they will not be able to solve the social problem. I believe that in their area.... [changes thought] They can have an influence in all areas but, in my opinion, the area in which they should [corrects himself] they could have more influence is the health area.

Every time one of these seminars is held, not only do all of us learn new things, not only do we all receive new information, but I believe our consciences also need to be strengthened. After certain rates are reached—I believe it is fair to say—when you reach 25, 20—to speak of an rate—if one wants to go lower than this, expensive and sophisticated medicine is needed. Medicine could improve many other things, even reduce the number of accidents. For example, we have attempted—especially during the last 10 years—to acquire and introduce new technology in medicine. We attempt to acquire and introduce each new thing that comes up anywhere in the world. When [computerized] axial tomography became available, we got [computerized] axial tomography. Nuclear magnetic resonance appeared and we said: Let us get nuclear magnetic resonance and let us see what it can do. When the extracorporeal lithotriptcy came, we said: Let us get the lithotriptcy here to begin reducing traumatic surgeries. When the linear accelerator became available, we welcomed it. We welcome any new things, in addition to the new medical equipment we build.

This is a field which has developed quite a bit. We have laboratory analysis equipment such as the SUMA [Ultra Micro Analytic System] which uses very small amounts, it makes 90 simultaneous analyses repeatedly. It is very new equipment which is being improved every year. It is

extremely valuable in examining blood donations to see if there is hepatitis or other viruses. This type of analysis prevents the spread of viruses. It also helps to reach diagnoses. We have a few dozen new sets of equipment. How valuable could they be? I will give an example. Something called (dirinamica)—that is the name given it here—already exists in the world. It is used to shorten the time of a....

[Speaker, interrupting] An antibiogram.

[Castro] What was that? It is an antibiogram, yes, of an antibiogram. In the natural way, through cultures, it takes 48 hours or more to find out which antibiotic should be administered. Imagine what it is to lose 48 hours or more with a patient in serious condition.

We already have a machine that in four hours, in less than what it takes other machines on the world market—I understand that there are machines that take up to 12 hours—we have machines that make the analysis in four hours and indicate which antibiotic should be used. How many lives can a machine like that one save?

We are developing machines but we do not believe we are going to develop all the machines that are needed in medicine. We are fighting to be up to date in any technique. I mentioned mammography here. We did not invent that machine. Others invented it and we acquired it. We have made advancements in surgery, in many transplants, kidney and heart transplants. Coinciding with this seminar—it was an absolutely coincidental thing—we implanted an artificial heart for the first time. The idea of attempting to make the artificial heart was pretty audacious but it was done. It was implanted a few days ago. I ask the hospital's director every day how the case is progressing. Well, I know that at least four days had passed. A heart was made available. The patient had—because of the group he falls in—an 80-percent chance of being able to get the first one that became available, but it could not be used because it did not match the group. Four days had passed—which was supposed to be enough time to do the [word indistinct] I do not know if they have more recent news about that. Gomez Cabrera should be around there. I saw him somewhere. Nobody knows?

The case was going well last evening when I asked him. I believe four days had passed. That is a more expensive type of medicine. Did I mention the linear accelerator? Yes, I did. This is also combined with radiology. We have a lot of hopes of the linear accelerator regarding the possibility of noninvasive brain surgery. With this, I want to tell you that we have tried to begin acquiring, begin mastering all the new technologies that are appearing. Once we get the news.... [changes thought] Many times we do not wait for the conferences. Many times we learn about developments in newspapers, in news dispatches, and we are immediately interested in the technology. This is in addition to the ones we develop.

There are things that if we did not do them, we would have not reached the 10.7 [infant mortality rate]. I am going to cite some. First, there is pediatric intensive care. This helps to save lives. Second, there is early detection of congenital malformations of the neural system or heart, all of those that can be detected through analyses, through reagents, or other methods such as radiology. In this case, through ultrasound, the equipment available to detect, not to detect, [corrects himself] to examine pregnant women. The rate of heart defects is not very low, for example. A third factor is the Children's Cardiovascular Surgery Center. Even premature babies are operated on there. They are also learning the techniques for intrauterine surgery there. I have mentioned three. [Fourth] we have to include—I mentioned cardiovascular surgery—perinatal intensive care services. This is a service that we have been extending to all maternity hospitals in the last two or three years, taking into account the number of those who die in those first weeks. Fifth, there is the family doctor.

I understand that these five factors play a very important role because there are birth defects that are incompatible with life. If they are detected in time, at the right time, the pregnancy can be interrupted. All these factors help to reduce the rates. Nevertheless, there is a curious thing that catches our attention. Several provinces have a rate lower than 10. There are municipalities with 0. Sometimes they have had a rate of 0 for two years. There are provinces with seven or eight. It is a curious thing. The capital has a rate of 10. Several provinces have an rate greater than the one the capital has. Sometimes it is seen that there are regions with greater rates of birth defects. Sometimes there are even municipalities with greater rates of birth defects. Another curious thing: There are regions with greater rates of mental retardation.

Studies need to be conducted of all those things that are being discovered. Studies need to be conducted to find out the reasons. When you ask how many died at the polyclinic, two, three, all of them, most of them are because of unsolvable problems. There is a large number of unsolvable problems. There is, however, room [for improvement]. We do not have the lowest rate in the capital now. It has a rate of 10. There are several provinces that have rates that are lower than 10. This shows one thing: that health care is generalized and that it reaches all the corners of the country.

It also shows the possibilities of reducing the rate below 10. I already said the other day that we do not know if we have the best conditions to reach that goal genetically or weather-wise. It is lower than 10 wherever there is a family doctor. I believe that is evidence of the effect the family doctor has had in reducing the infant mortality rate. I say this because it is a reality. There are rates that can be reached with relatively inexpensive medicine. I believe those are the rates we have to go after. It is an illusion to attempt or advocate a general type of medicine like the type of medicine we are practicing because this is more expensive. It is more expensive. [repeats]

There is another field that is very promising in our country, and that is the field of research, the task of the research centers in the area of biotechnology, medicine, medical equipment, everything related to human health.

I already mentioned the health of plants and animals. We have a group of research centers working on this. All the medical schools are doing research. All the universities are doing research nowadays. Research is prioritized in this field. Results such as the meningitis vaccine have come from this, the vaccine against meningitis B. This one does not exist in other countries yet. The vaccine against hepatitis B exists in some. We also have the vaccine against hepatitis B. We have the skin growth factor used for burns and ulcers. We have the skin growth factor. Recombinant streptokinase: We are the first country to have recombinant streptokinase. It is much more economical than ATP [adenosine triphosphate] because this is a natural product and is extremely expensive.

We are working on finding the nerve growth factor. We are working very hard. This is related to all nerve transplants and rehabilitation programs. This is to give you some examples. We are working on other types of vaccines. We are working in all fields. We are working with new products, and also with the universal pharmaceutical formulary. We are developing a strong medical industry. We are producing medicines and equipment, not just new ones. It is a broad and very important field. An example of this is the study of natural products, botanical medicine. We intend to boost this area. We will study the effect of natural products on the human organism. We are going to create a new research center for natural products alone using groups who have been working in this area.

I believe that we should study anticarcinogenic products. In the same way that everything that has a carcinogenic effect is studied, everything that stops the mutation of cancer should be studied. A number of products that have those qualities are known. We have to study them systematically and thoroughly. This involves serious work.

Yesterday I was talking with a group of delegates. I was telling them that we are going to throughly study the problems of nutrition, especially a theory based on research conducted in other countries comparing the recommended diet and other types of diets. Research shows that many of the worst diseases are started pretty early—at least in animals—with the American diet, with that diet. This diet is called an undernutrition diet and not a malnutrition diet, as a concept that is the opposite of the super diet. It has been shown in animals that those diseases take almost twice a long to appear.

See, this would be the only good news the Third World could receive [chuckles] that with the so-called undernutrition diet—that is, based on concepts other that those of the diet recommended in the developed world—human life expectancy is considerably increased. We know this through what it has been published as a result of the research conducted in Europe and the United States.

I say, we have to do all this research very thoroughly to see if there is some truth to it. In the case of cancer, there is the study of anticarcinogenic products, all the problems related to early detection. [Words indistinct] mentioned machines but monoclonal antibodies could be mentioned. They could be used for diagnosis at a very early stage. We are also working with monoclonal antibodies with the idea of fighting cancer, not just diagnosing it but fighting it. We have also conducted experiments with natural products such as interferon obtained from blood. A lot of progress is being made.

It is incalculable what can be achieved in the fight against cancer with early detection alone. I also trust that we can do all the necessary research in order to use those natural products that fight cancer. Natural products fight cancer in the same way that tobacco promotes it.

What results can be obtained? In addition to working intensely, we are working and will work more intensely in everything concerning cures, cures also, not just diagnosis but also curing cancer. This is one field. We are working a lot with everything that has to do with circulation. We are working on all the fundamental problems affecting health. I do not think there is anything more important that we could be doing right now.

Our young people and our scientists have demonstrated their abilities in this research, in this kind of work. I can tell you that there are thousands of scientists working right now on these tasks. We are building numerous research facilities. This is an abosolutely prioritized activity in this field. We are bringing biological and biotechnological research in general to all places. I will say that what we have accomplished to date may be 10 percent, one-tenth, of the effort we are going to make in this field in coming years. We have some medications that show a lot of promise. They are in the testing phase, the phase of research of all kinds, and medical protocols, and we do not want to say too much right now, but there are some medications that show extraordinary promise.

So this can be our country's contribution to the health problems of the Third World and the entire world, because some of these medications are in universal demand. How much progress will we make? We do not have a lot of resources, but some of the few resources we have are being invested in this. I think this is part of this whole struggle. I have said this about the field of medicine and the field of medical equipment. We are developing a research center for electronics and computers which will be entirely devoted to supporting the scientific research centers and will also produce equipment for the research centers and medical equipment. This is because we are building the factories around the research centers and subordinate to the research centers. That is the reverse of what happens in other countries.

All this facilitates the process of immediately applying any innovation, any result of research. I can assure you that in our country today, we do not lose even 24 hours from the time we know of a scientific result to the time we begin to design a pilot plant or whatever connected with it. We will try, on some occasion, especially at the next seminar—for those who come—to make time to visit the scientific research centers. I think this would encourage you a lot. Then you would have a clear idea of

the solidity our medical programs have today, based not only on the systems and concepts that are applied but also based on the training of the specialists, based on the production of medicines, and based on scientific research.

Of course, scientific research in this field goes beyond our borders. The number of people who want to come to receive some medical service in Cuba is growing. Really, it is growing, and people come from all over, not only from our brother countries in Latin America but even from industrialized countries. We hope that the progress we will make will be useful not only for our country. So I say that already many of the things we are doing and the things we are producing go beyond our borders.

It is almost a rule that every time a dengue epidemic occurs in Latin America they immediately ask us for information because of the experience we have accumulated with this. Also when the cholera epidemic began they immediately asked us for cooperation, for the information we have. Because we have doctors working in more than 30 countries and there are diseases in those countries that do not exist in Cuba or in Latin America, this has allowed us to gain a lot of experience.

We have an institute for tropical medicine, which will soon move into its new buildings, magnificent buildings, and I think this institute can also be of great use in general to Third World countries, and it is a very important point of support for research We have followed this path; it is one of the prioritized activities. We are working on the food program. We are working on tourism. We have economic needs. We are working in general in the economic field, but this activity I am referring to has very high priority.

There are many very valuable scientists devoted to these tasks. I was saying that I wished you could visit some of these places. The organizers should include a program of visits. They are close to here; the centers are close to each other. They should be included in this program, because I know this will interest you and will encourage you, the fact that a Latin American country, and a Third World country, can do these things. I can say that many visitors express their admiration, and on many occasions, on not a few occasions, their surprise at what they see.

Naturally, this encourages us, but events like this one, meetings like this one, seminars like this one, especially encourage us. Perhaps you think that you are going back with some encouragement from the exchanges of views among all of you, the experiences shared among all of you, and the part that corresponds to Cuba's experiences. I can assure you that we are the ones who feel very encouraged to continue with our efforts, redouble our efforts, multiply our efforts.

You also make us feel part of one family. You make us feel part of one world. You make us feel part of your sufferings, and we share them. You make us feel that we are in solidarity with those sufferings, and it multiplies our desires to join together, work together, and participate in this struggle. I want to tell you—to close now; good news for those who are about to fall asleep—that you can consider our people's efforts, you can consider all these things I have been talking about—our experiences, our advances, our research—you can consider them not as Cuba's property, but as the property of all of Latin America and the Third World.

When I speak of Latin America, naturally I give it special emphasis, since here, with the exception of some delegates who speak other languages, here we speak a single language. We have something that others do not have. They are saying that Europe is coming together, and in fact it is coming together. They say they are uniting, and in fact they are uniting, but they speak something like 15 different languages. Europeans cannot meet together as we do and speak a single language.

We who speak a single language and do not need translators can ask: Who has more ties and more things in common than our nations? How much time have we lost? Our destiny and our future cannot be otherwise. We cannot be a Balkanized set of countries, incapable of confronting the great challenges of the colossal economic and scientific powers of this age. This is a long road, but we must move forward step by step.

These seminars, these meetings, this cooperation in the field of medicine, as in the field of health and other fields, unite us a lot. We do not know how many friends are appearing, how many values are being discovered, and how many possibilities are opening up. This is why we are not saying farewell as a group of guests, and it is forbidden to say the word "foreigner." We are saying farewell as a group from a great family, as a group of brothers from the great nation of Latin America. Thank you very much. [applause] In our farewell we should include our Iberian brothers who are present here. [applause] We should include our English-speaking brothers who have also accompanied us. [applause]

Antigua and Barbuda

Bird, Sr., Names Joseph New Finance Minister

FL2103203091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2008 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, March 21, CANA—Reassigning portfolios after three cabinet resignations, Antigua and Barbuda prime minister, Vere Bird Sr., on Thursday named Molwyn Joseph the new finance minister. Finance was added to Joseph's trade portfolio and energy removed.

The prime minister's son, Lester Bird, had been named finance minister in a cabinet reshuffle last Friday, but he resigned over differences with the elderly leader. Resigning with him were Hugh Marshall, who had been named as head of a new Caribbean Affairs Ministry, and

a junior minister in the Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, Hendy Simon. The prime minister did not announce replacements for Simon or Marshall.

Joseph's industry portfolio was given to Dr. Rodney Williams, appointed minister of economic development and tourism last week. Joseph's energy portfolio went to Public Utilities Minister Robin Yearwood. The social affairs portfolio Lester Bird was to have held has gone to Home Affairs Minister Christopher O'Marde.

During a news conference Thursday, Bird Sr. accused his son, Marshall, and Simon of creating confusion in the country. The three had been calling for Bird Sr. to step down as prime minister, making way for his son. Complaining of press coverage of developments in Antigua—which has been hit by a series of scandals—Bird Sr. said Antigua and Barbuda was "not worse than anybody else."

Dominican Republic

Balaguer: Meeting With Aristide 'Good Idea'

FL2103172691 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Dominican President Dr. Joaquin Balaguer has just announced, or described, a meeting between himself and Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide as a good idea. President Balaguer stated that a meeting between the two countries' presidents would be very beneficial and would help in resolving some conflicts that exist. He said that because of the situation Haiti is experiencing, contacts have not yet been made about a meeting between the two presidents.

[Begin Balaguer recording] I think that it continues to be a good and necessary thing to have contact between the two countries' heads of state. There are many problems awaiting solution that affect both nations [words indistinct] of the authorities of the two countries. (?In short,) because of the situation that still exists in Haiti, they are in a transition period which they have not completely finished yet, [words indistinct] this situation the neighboring country is experiencing, contacts have not been made between the two foreign ministries to come to agreements [words indistinct] between the two presidents. The Dominican Republic has always had the greatest willingness to cooperate with Haiti and help Haiti in all (?aspects) to overcome the problems it is currently facing and to stabilize its democracy. [end recording]

The Haitian president recently expressed his interest in holding a meeting with President Joaquin Balaguer.

Bosch Withdraws Resignation, Backs New Committee

FL2103170591 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Last night Professor Juan Bosch withdrew his resignation of his membership in and presidency of the Dominican Liberation Party [PLD]. In this regard, Professor Bosch called on PLD members to make a commitment to respect and enforce the organization's principles. The political leader defended the legality of the party's new Central Committee and stated that he will not ask for any of its members to resign because they were all elected democratically and were sworn in at his request during the closing ceremony of the fourth national congress of the PLD. In a speech read last night over a radio and television channel, Bosch said: If I were to ask them to resign their posts, I would earn—and rightfully so—the contempt of all PLD members and many Dominicans and foreigners who know and respect me.

Haiti

MPP Holds Convention; Adopts New Name

FL2103204591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Report by correspondent in Hinche]

[Text] After two days of discussions, the peasants have voted on the new statutes of the Papaye Peasants Movement [MPP]. The congress chose a new name for the movement. The delegates made many proposals. The new official name of the MPP is Papaye Congress National Peasants [Mouvman Peyizan Nasyonal Kongre Papaye, MPNKP].

Many delegates thought the headquarters of the MPNKP should be in Gonaives [capital of the Artibonite Department, 152 km north Port-au-Prince], but the majority voted in favor of remaining in Papaye. Meanwhile, the congress continues.

St. Lucia

Diplomatic Relations Established With Chile

FL2103170791 Bridgetown CANA in English 1404 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Washington, March 21, CANA—St. Lucia and Chile established diplomatic relations on Wednesday at the non-resident ambassadorial level, the two governments announced in a joint statement here.

The agreement establishing formal ties between Castries and Santiago was signed by St. Lucian ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Joseph Edsel Edmunds, and his Chilean counterpart, Heraldo Munoz.

In the statement, both governments expressed confidence the agreement would contribute to the strengthening of mutual cooperation in the economic, commercial, and cultural fields. It noted both countries shared the same objectives and goals of promoting peace, democracy, and justice in accordance with the rules and principles of international law.

El Salvador

Central Electoral Council Gives Official Results

PA2203044991 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0334 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] The Central Electoral Council [CCE] today reported the official election results for 12 of the country's 14 departments. Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] won the majority of the deputy and mayors' seats.

Only 10 days after the elections were held, Arena has won 20 deputy seats, the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] 15, the National Conciliation Party [PCN] 6, and the Democratic Convergence [CD] 2. In all, 41 parliamentarians have been elected.

The distribution is as follows:

Department	Number of Deputy Seats			
	Arena	PDC	PCN	CD
Usulutan	2	1	1	0
Morazan	1	1	1	0
San Miguel	2	2	1	0
La Union	1	2	0	0
Santa Ana	3	0	0	1
Sonsonate	2	1	1	0
San Vicente	2	1	0	0
Cabanas	1	1	1	0
Ahuachapan	1	1	1	0
La Paz	2	1	0	0
Chalatenango	1	1	0	1
Cuscatlan	2	1	0	0

It has been reported unofficially that in San Salvador, Arena won eight seats, followed by the PDC with three, the CD with three, the UDN [Nationalist Democratic Union] with one, and the PCN with one.

Arena Headquarters in La Libertad Attacked

PA2103135591 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] According to police sources, early this morning unidentified individuals placed an explosive device in the headquarters building of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) in the Port of La Libertad.

Police spokesmen indicated that the explosion in the Arena headquarters in La Libertad Port occurred at approximately 0300 [0900 GMT] and caused only material damage. The headquarters is at 5th South Avenue and El Calvario Street in the Port of La Libertad; the explosion damaged windows and the building facade.

Commentary Notes FMLN Wish To End War

PA2103185591 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] proposal for a truce on 30 May is a clear demonstration of its flexibility and desire to end the war in El Salvador.

To silence the guns is not only a national necessity but also a crowning achievement of all the country's political forces. Those who have always benefited and gained wealth from the war find themselves caught between the sword and the will of the nation. Therefore, it is not unusual that the immediate reaction of Mr. Oscar Santamaria, chief of the government's negotiating mission, and of Colonel Ochoa Perez, have been hasty, rash, and far from constructive. They seek to make guns the country's foremost decision-making tools.

Santamaria, who defends a discredited military institution, should consider the willingness shown by the EC in Managua, and the recent resolution in support of the negotiations signed by the United States and the USSR. In any event, Mr. Cristiani has the last word.

It is up to Arena and the Armed Forces to say whether or not on 30 May guns will cease to do the talking and permit the nation's political forces to assume the reins of power by consensus. If the Arena and the Armed Forces truly want peace, they can negotiate now; earnestly, realistically, and flexibly. The cease-fire will be the political defeat of institutionalized warmongering.

By opening a stage, there will be no reason to restrict the liberties to which all the country's forces are entitled. We are completely convinced that the cease-fire will signify the preliminary victory over those sectors that use military weapons as an instrument to impose themselves on the nation. Gentlemen, you have an important opportunity. You have the last word and your political wisdom will be put to the test.

FMLN Sets Conditions for Cease-Fire Proposal

PA2203000491 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Report by Alexis Diaz—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The top FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] leaders from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, set out their conditions for a cease-fire. Under those conditions the rebels will not be forced to lay down their weapons, and those areas currently under the control of the guerrillas will remain as such. Meanwhile, the rebels demanded flexibility on the part of President Alfredo Cristiani, during the peace talks.

The Modesto Ramirez Central Front's rebel joint command, which operates in the Guazapa Hill area, adopted the FMLN high command's decision to reach a cease-fire before 31 May 1991, to initiate true peace negotiations. Rebel Commander Chano Guevara, a Modesto Ramirez Central Front leader, said that the rebels are willing to cease confrontations on a short term basis. He pointed out, however, that the rebels will not lay down their weapons and that the territories under their control must be respected.

[Guevara] "With regard to the proposal I have made for 30 May, it is an FMLN effort aimed at putting some pressure on the government, so that they begin to negotiate in earnest. For us, this is essential and we are conscious and well aware that a negotiable political solution must be given to this conflict. The people, we included, are anxious to end this war. The government is too uncompromising to engage in serious negotiations. In the statement we set out our negotiating conditions to reach a cease-fire agreement. Within the same cease-fire we must negotiate the establishment of limits of our territories, as well as those of the government."

Rebel Captain Damian Alegria, also a Modesto Ramirez Central Front member, said that the oppositions' victory in the past election will contribute to the peace negotiations aimed at putting an end to the armed conflict between the confronting parties.

[Alegria] "We believe that the fact that the opposition won some seats in the Legislative Assembly will contribute to the exerting of further pressure in the negotiating process. The political solution to the conflict in the country solely depends on this negotiating process."

Rebel Captain Damian Alegria claimed that the FMLN's decision to negotiate a cease-fire, prior to political agreements on the Armed Forces issue as established in the Caracas Agenda, does not mean that the rebel force is weakened, but rather that this is a good will gesture on their part to end the conflict.

[Unidentified Reporter] "Do you think that the Armed Forces will take this opportunity to say that the FMLN is weakened and that this is why it has proposed a cease-fire?"

[Alegria] "Every time we have stated our willingness to negotiate, the Army has always upheld this position, but the contrary has always occurred. Each time the FMLN comes out as a true force, with fighting strength on a national level, the government's propaganda is questioned."

The FMLN commanders demanded that the government and the Armed Forces also give signs of flexibility like the rebels are showing in the peace conversations, otherwise the attacks will continue even though the civilian population is affected. Guevara and Alegria made these statements in the Suchitoto area, Cuscatlan Department, within a framework of a UN delegation visit aimed at installing a human rights office in our country.

Salvadoran Government, FMLN Conclude Meeting

PA2203041491 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0049 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Mar (DPA)—Amid total secrecy, representatives for the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas today concluded a brief meeting in Mexico City, during which they discussed procedural aspects of the peace talks that they are holding.

Faithful to the confidentiality agreement that governs these meetings, which are mediated by Alvaro de Soto, the UN secretary general's persoaal representative, neither side was willing to disclose the subject matter of the discussions.

So far it has been impossible to confirm whether the new Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) proposal, which was presented this week in Managua, was examined at the meeting and if the government delegation presented a counterproposal, as was speculated before the meeting began.

The new rebel initiative is an attempt to have the negotiations deal simultaneously with points such as the Army's restructuring, constitutional reforms, and a cease-fire agreement, for which the FMLN has suggested 30 May as a tentative date.

The secrecy surrounding this round of talks was so extreme that not even the participants' names or the meeting site were disclosed.

UN Mission Visits Areas Under FMLN Control

PA2203041691 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0200 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Report on UN mission's visit to FMLN-controlled areas, including interview with Pakistan's (Ikbal Riza), director of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's office, in Perquin on 16 March]

[Text] Radio Venceremos brings you the following report on the historic visit of a UN mission to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]-controlled northern Rio Torola area today. The domestic and foreign media have already reported that this mission would visit El Salvador for 10 days to study the procedures to establish a permanent office for the UN mission that is to verify the compliance of the FMLN-government agreements.

The UN mission was welcomed at the banks of Rio Torola by more than 2,000 people waving blue-and-white Salvadoran flags. All the grassroots organizations—PADECON [not further identified], Ciudad Segundo Montes representatives, and the mothers organization—in this area of Morazan were present at this important event.

The UN mission was headed by Pakistani (Ikbal Riza), the director of the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's office. All the UN visitors are human rights or military affairs experts. They are: (Pedro Niquen), a Venezuelan Central University professor, former Inter-American Human Rights Commission president, and adviser to the United Nations on this topic; France's (Philippe Tecksier), a UN human rights adviser who has also studied the human rights situation in Haiti; Spanish Colonel (Francisco Javier Sorzo), a UN military adviser; Spaniard Denise Cook who works at the UN office in El Salvador; and Italian (Francisco Marca).

As the UN mission moved from the banks of Rio Torola to Ciudad Segundo Montes, thousands of residents shouted slogans, waved their flags, and welcomed them with happiness. The mission continued on to Perquin where they were also welcomed by thousands of residents in the area. At Perquin, the UN representatives got out of their vehicles and were received by Comrade Lieutenant Colonel Jorge Melendez, the third military region commander of the National Army for Democracy; Commanders Gustavo Amaya, Javier, Fito, and Mauricio; and other command staff members.

The UN representatives met with the FMLN commanders to explain their visit and to report that another UN mission, with a task similar to theirs, was currently visiting Chalatenango. The UN mission is on a survey trip as this organization plans to establish a permanent human rights verification office in El Salvador. This office will also verify compliance with the agreements reached by the FMLN and the government. The existence of such an office in El Salvador is unprecedented as the United Nations has never had a permanent office to study the human rights situation in any country. The existence of such an office in our country emphasizes the importance of the United Nations as a mediator in the Salvadoran conflict.

The UN mission reported that this office will have the following four main objectives: 1. To actively survey the human rights situation in El Salvador; 2. To investigate specific cases; 3. To promote respect for human rights in El Salvador; and 4. To present suggestions to the contending parties on ways to improve the human rights situation.

After meeting with the FMLN command staff, several of the UN representatives took the time to explain the objective of their visit to the thousands of residents who had welcomed them. Later on, the visitors met with several people's organizations—PADECON, Ciudad Segundo Montes representatives, grassroots church groups, and the organized mothers association—at the PADECON locale and listened to the people's reports on human rights violations as well as information on the economic and social situation in the area.

(Ikbal Riza), head of the UN mission, offered the following interview in Perquin. As we have said, (Riza) is a Pakistani and an important UN official. He is the director of the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's office in New York and is widely known in diplomatic circles. He has represented the United Nations on different occasions and places such as Nicaragua and the Middle East. Let us listen to the interview given by (Riza) at Perquin:

[Begin recording] [Radio Venceremos Reporter] Why is the UN mission in Morazan?

[(Riza)] This is a preliminary visit by a group of human rights experts to assess conditions in the country. We are studying the procedures that have to be established for the verification commission. The existence of this commission was approved in the agreement signed by the government and the FMLN in San Jose, Costa Rica on 26 July 1990. The San Jose agreement established commitments to be kept by both parties and also established that the United Nations verify the compliance of these commitments. In principle, the verification was to take place after a cease-fire had been established. However, at the request of both parties, we are studying the possibility of setting up the office before a cease-fire is established. Hence, we are visiting El Salvador to evaluate the conditions and the procedures required to establish this office.

[Reporter] Could you give us details of the mission's accomplishments and the groups it has talked with during this visit?

[(Riza)] Basically, we have worked on operational aspects and on how the mission is to operate without a cease-fire in effect. Clearly, the situation would be entirely different and the mission's task could be accomplished without any difficulty if a cease-fire existed. However, the absence of a cease-fire and the continuation of the conflict poses problems that must be resolved on an operational level.

[Reporter] What is the mission's agenda? What organizations have you met with? What were your activities today?

[(Riza)] We have met with government organizations, with non-government organizations, and with the Armed Forces command staff in San Salvador. Upon our return to the city, we will meet with representatives of several political parties.

[Reporter] Who did you meet in Morazan?

[(Riza)] Here in Morazan, we met with representatives of people's organizations and the FMLN.

[Reporter] What is balance of these initial steps in El Salvador?

[(Riza)] Well, we now have an overall view of the situation here. Some of our colleagues are visiting Chalatenango today, and we will get together with them when we return to San Salvador so that we can share our information. This will enable our experts to present their recommendations to the UN secretary general [words indistinct] a report to the Security Council, which will make the final decision on the verification commission.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

Guatemala

Government Urges Expeditious Peace Negotiations

PA2203001991 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] President Jorge Serrano Elias is willing to sign a total peace agreement with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) as soon as possible in Oslo, Norway.

On 30 March, we mark the first anniversary of the beginning of talks with the insurgents in the same city where the president is proposing that the agreement aimed at bringing peace to the country be signed.

The aforementioned information is included in a communique that was made public yesterday. The ambiguous wording of the communique forced us to make consultations with the public relations secretary of the Presidency.

The official indicated that the communique conveys that the president is ready to sign an agreement. It suggests that the agreement be signed in Oslo. It also urges the URNG to participate in the preparation of the final documents.

The official communique was issued hours before President Serrano left for Costa Rica, where, among other things, he will give an authoritative speech at the University for Peace. There, the audience will undoubtedly ask the president about the progress of the negotiations with the guerrillas.

The official document is called "The Guatemalan Government Is Willing To Talk to the URNG To Attain a Total Peace." According to the communique, "the agreement would be signed in Oslo to commemorate the beginning of the peace process."

The peace process began on 30 March, 1990. This could lead one to believe that the date recommended for the signing of the agreement would be 30 March 1991, Easter Saturday. Later in the night, the presidential spokesman explained that no exact date has been established thus far.

Text of the declaration:

1. Jorge Serrano Elias, constitutional president of the Republic, affirms before the people and the international community his unyielding resolve to attain a total peace agreement with the URNG, within a framework of justice and with full adherence to the legal system of the country.

2. The president of the Republic reiterates the Guatemalan Government's commitment to recognize and comply, in good faith, with the agreements signed with the URNG in Oslo, Norway, which are included in the Basic Agreement for the Search for Peace Through Peaceful Means [Acuerdo Basico para la Busqueda de la Paz por Medios Pacificos] of 30 March 1990.

3. The president of the Republic informs the national and international public opinion that in the first 60 days of his government, communication with the URNG through the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR), and in particular mediator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, has been constant.

4. The president of the Republic is willing to sign, as soon as possible, the general and final peace agreement in Oslo, Norway. He has repeatedly reasserted this, in accordance with the conditions set forth in the Basic Agreement for the Search for Peace Through Political Means, which was signed on 30 March 1990, taking into consideration the scheduled processes of reconciliation, consultation, and negotiation.

5. The president of the Republic believes that after the talks between different groups of citizens with the URNG throughout 1990, it is now time to undertake, in good faith, the responsibility to conclude the pending negotiations in accordance with the Oslo agreements.

6. The president of the Republic once again urges the URNG to participate in the definition of the concepts and the preparation of final documents that will make peace possible in Guatemala, which is a historical need and desire of the people.

7. The president of the Republic publicly expresses his appreciation of the efforts by mediator Msgr. Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, who has worked for peace with great patriotism; the members of the CNR; Mr. Frances Vendrell, UN secretary general representative; friendly countries; and all the institutions of men and women who have worked selflessly in the pursuit of peace in Guatemala, without any delays.

Guatemala, 16 March 1991

Honduras

Salvadoran Elections in Disputed Islands Protested

PA2103003991 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Mar 91 03

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Foreign Ministry sources have said that the Salvadoran Government should not have

installed ballot boxes on Meanguera Island because there is a trial pending at the International Court of Justice, ICJ, to settle a border dispute between Honduras and El Salvador.

The sources recalled that the general peace treaty, which was signed by both countries in 1980, clearly establishes that neither country can possess territories under dispute.

The sources add that the Honduran Foreign Ministry notified the ICJ of the Salvadoran Government's actions on Meanguera Island.

According to the same sources, at the request of the Salvadoran Government, Honduras did not install ballot boxes on that island during the 1989 Honduran presidential elections.

The Foreign Ministry sources stressed that there is a slight chance Honduras could win the case because the Salvadoran Government has violated all the precepts under the general peace treaty and in other commitments.

Meanwhile, the congressional foreign relations commission will present a motion today to the executive branch, asking it to protest, through the Foreign Ministry, the Salvadoran Government's installation of ballot boxes on the Honduran islands of Meanguera and Meanguerita, which are located in the Gulf of Fonseca in front of El Tigre Island.

The report was filed by National Party Deputy Africo Madrid Hart, who traveled to El Salvador with other deputies as observer of the municipal elections.

"We supervised the elections in southern El Salvador and can confirm that several ballot boxes were placed on the Honduran islands of Meanguera and Meanguerita, and that election results were announced during the night of 10 March," Madrid said.

This action shows a lack of willingness on the part of the Salvadoran Government to resolve the border dispute between the two nations, particularly over the possession of those territories.

Recently it was publicly announced in El Salvador that a telephone submarine cable was installed between the mainland and Meanguera Island. It was also reported that Salvadoran authorities frequently visit that island to inaugurate schools and other educational centers and to reaffirm El Salvador's jurisdiction.

Nicaragua

FSLN Communique on National Directorate Meeting

PA2203020691 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Mar 91 pp 1, 5

[Communique issued by the Secretariat of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Managua on 20 March 1991]

[Text] 1. During the ordinary meeting of 20 March 1991, the FSLN's National Directorate appointed Comrade Sergio Ramirez Mercado to accompany the Nicaraguan Government commission that will travel to Washington to seek foreign resources for the country.

The FSLN supports this effort as long as it is understood that the resources that enter the country will serve to stimulate production, guarantee employment, protect salaries, and attract foreign investment that may help stimulate the national economy.

2. The foreign resources must guarantee the people's basic rights to health, education, and a fair standard of living. They must protect the victims of the war, the handicapped, the mothers (of the victims), the retired, the children (of the victims), and the poorer sectors of Nicaraguan society.

3. The FSLN's National Directorate also supports the agreement signed on 18 March between the National Workers Front (FNT) and the Nicaraguan Government that sets a 22 May deadline for the establishment of the appropriate mechanisms to protect the purchasing power of the state workers' salaries.

4. The National Directorate states its concern over the 48-percent cut in the universities' budget, as well as the losses caused by the devaluation of the resources deposited in the universities' current accounts in national banks. This puts the university community in a bad situation because the university's doors are being closed on thousands of students who currently study there with great effort and limitations.

The National Directorate hopes that the government will raise the univerity's overall budget to the value it had before 3 March.

5. The situation of the bank workers' strike and other labor conflicts were also discussed. The National Directorate demands immediate dialogue and mediation so that these cases can be solved.

Free fatherland or death!
Secretariat of the National Directorate of the FSLN.
[Dated] Managua, 20 March 1991.

Lacayo Denies Linking Ortega to Bermudez Murder

PA2203001891 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Mar 91 p. 1

[Letter from Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo to the directors of LA PRENSA, in Managua on 16 March]

[Text] Managua, 16 March 1991.
Messrs. Pablo Antonio Cuadra and Horacio Ruiz,
LA PRENSA newspaper directors

Dear Directors:

I wish to refer to the article that merited the most important headline of LA PRENSA on 15 March, entitled "Newspaper Reports on a Plot Against [murdered former Contra leader] Bermudez," which refers to a UPI news dispatch datelined in Washington on 15 March about an article published in "THE WASHINGTON TIMES".

I have read the original article written by Mr. Bill Gertz for the above-mentioned newspaper, of which I am attaching a photocopy.

This article reports that U.S. officials said that several important advisers of Mrs. Chamorro (referring to our President Violeta Chamorro), including Vice President Virgilio Godoy and Presidential Adviser Antonio Lacayo, "suspect that General [Humberto] Ortega is involved in the murder."

I would like to make clear and affirm that the undersigned has never made a statement to any person or media that could lead to the affirmation made in said article.

I would also like to point out that Mr. Gertz' article, on which the UPI news dispatch that you published is based, is so inaccurate that it refers to Dr. Godoy as an important adviser of President Chamorro, which is not true.

I would greatly appreciate your publishing this letter on the same page of your newspaper on which you featured said article.

Yours truly,
Antonio Lacayo O.
Minister of the Presidency.

Argentina

Government Decree Fixes Austral to Dollar Value

PY2103143891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0105 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Mar (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo officially announced tonight that as of 1 April the austral will be tied to the dollar; that consequently the austral will no longer depreciate; that all types of indexations including those affecting financial obligations, debts, salaries, and rents will cease to exist; and that all payments to foreign creditors will have to be financed with genuine resources.

Cavallo said that foreign exchange reserves and gold reserves held at the Central Bank will fully cover all the australs in circulation at the rate 10,000 australes to the dollar.

The minister denied that the government intends to change the currency (even though the draft bill on free convertibility that will be sent to Congress allows it) or remove some zeros from the austral. Cavallo said that the value of financial assets such as deposits will not be affected, that they will in fact increase in value because of the elimination of the devaluation risk.

Cavallo denied there is a risk of a foreign exchange rate increase because there will no longer be a fiscal deficit as of 1 April.

Cavallo said that the ceiling of 10,000 australes to the dollar was fixed but that the floor of 9,700 was not, although the government intends to keep it within that band.

Cavallo said during a news conference at the Padilla Hall of the Economy Ministry that the measures he was announcing are similar to those announced by Carlos Pellegrini in 1890 during the deep depression that affected our country. He added that those measures allowed us to recover from the crisis.

Cavallo said that the government will send the draft bill on free convertibility to Congress and that the date for the bill to enter into effect will depend on a timely congressional approval.

Cavallo said that the Central Bank will maintain the exchange rate band until the law goes into effect. The minister added that convertibility is not compulsory but anyone wanting to exchange his australes for dollars will be able to do so at the Central Bank at the rate of 10,000 australes per dollar and that the Central Bank will purchase dollars if the rate falls below 9,700 australes.

Cavallo said that convertibility will not affect local prices because our currency will remain stable.

We will live in a climate of stability because the government has implemented policies to eliminate the fiscal deficit, Cavallo said.

Cavallo said that deindexation is consistent with convertibility and that from now on contracts will be closed on fixed amounts of australs.

Cavallo believes that the new scheme will permit a genuine economic reactivation and it will make easier for the government to collect taxes and reduce public expenditures.

Cavallo said that salaries will be established in australes and that they will remain fixed because of the effect of deindexation. Cavallo added, however, that this does not mean that salaries will be frozen because they can be modified through labor-management negotiations.

Cavallo said that rents will be established in australes and that they will remain fixed. When indexation clauses determine an adjustment greater than the variation of the dollar plus 12 percent, counting from the date the contract was signed, the adjustment will be done according to the latest value. Cavallo denied that the system implied rent reductions, merely a refiguring of rents.

Cavallo also said that utility rates will not increase but that the government will introduce a small change in structure to favor industrial sectors.

Cavallo was accompanied during the news conference by Under Secretary Carlos Sanchez, Central Bank President Roque Fernandez, Planning Secretary Vittorio Orsi, and Chief Adviser Juan Llach. Cavallo said that deposits in dollars will be further guaranteed by modifications in two articles of the civil code that will allow depositors to receive their money in the currency in which the deposit was made.

Cavallo said that the new measures will strengthen and reestablish the credit system. Cavallo failed, however, to mention a reduction in bank withholdings as of April. He said that an announcement will be made before that date.

Cavallo anticipated, however, that withholdings will no longer discriminate between types of deposits, that they will be only as high as necessary to maintain the system, and that they will tend to decrease.

Cavallo said that there were no commitments from international organization or the U.S. Federal Reserve to help Argentina and that the country was capable, using its own means, to guarantee convertibility.

Present reserves will not be used to pay foreign creditors. Those bills will have to be financed with genuine resources obtained through increased collections. The resources so obtained will then be used to purchase the extra foreign currency. [passage indistinct]

Cavallo concluded by saying that tax reductions on cars, tires, electrical appliances, and agricultural withholdings will stimulate the generation of more taxes, and the reactivation of sales and the increased production will compensate the reduction in tax rates.

New Austral Conversion Offered

PY2103010791 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2355 GMT 20 Mar 91

["Excerpts" of a statement by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo during a news conference at the Padilla Hall of the Economy Ministry—recorded]

[Text] The executive branch today decided to submit to Congress a draft bill authorizing the free conversion of the austral and eliminating any indexation clauses or rules currently in force.

Under the executive branch's draft bill, australes may be exchanged for dollars at the Central Bank at a rate of 10,000 australes per dollar. In order to always be able to honor the demand for dollars, the Central Bank will permanently keep on hand gold and dollars equivalent to the monetary base, that is, equivalent to all the australes in circulation. The government currently maintains this ratio but this draft bill seeks to establish that it will be the Central Bank's unavoidable responsibility to permanently maintain sufficient reserves in gold and dollars.

This measure will prevent the devaluation of the austral in relation to other foreign currencies and, consequently, it will become a stable currency in relation to the prices within our economy. This will occur especially now that our economy is starting to operate under the rules of an open economy, fully interrelated through exports and imports, with the rest of the world.

This means that we are going to enjoy stability.

Bolivia

President Paz Views 'Militarization' Program

PY2103151691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1944 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Excerpt] La Paz, 20 Mar—Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora said today in La Paz that he has no predetermined date on which he will order the Army into the fight against drug trafficking, but he did acknowledge that it will have to participate "in the face of any eventuality" [ante cualquier eventualidad].

"I have set no date, but their participation undoubtedly depends on the evaluation of when the Armed Forces, if anything unforeseen happens, have to participate," Paz Zamora said just before traveling by air to the city of Sucre.

The president's remarks come when it is considered that the so-called "militarization" of the fight against drug trafficking has become a fact. To this effect, an agreement signed with the United States in 1990 provides for a training program, headed by U.S. experts, for two infantry battalions that is scheduled for the end of this month.

Paz Zamora said: "The United States cooperates when we ask for or when we need cooperation. When are we going to need it? This depends on the Bolivians, me, and the government," he said.

The chief of state said that "militarization" must be understood "in its true dimension, in other words: That Alternative Development Plan for the peasants is maintained as the main issue, and the drug traffickers will only be repressed as the president's last line of action." [passage omitted]

'Surprise,' 'Indignation' Evoked

PY2203025091 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] The announcement of the implementation of Annex 3, which provides for the militarization of the struggle against drug trafficking, has caused surprise and indignation. Labor, political, and civilian representatives have expressed astonishment over the announcement and noted that if the president of the Republic allows the militarization of the struggle against drug trafficking, he is probably sponsoring the Colombianization of our country, to the detriment of our sovereignty.

This discontent and concern has also been expressed in Patriotic Agreement circles. Jorge Barrientos Zapata, MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] senator from Oruro Department, has stated that the future of the struggle against drug trafficking is in the hands of the president.

[Begin Barrientos recording] I very much regret the decision made on this issue. We are awaiting an official statement from the president of the Republic. So far we have heard remarks from one of his advisers, and we believe the president is still capable of reviewing this decision and making a statement. I do not justify the measure because this is a sovereign country, and the decision must be made by Congress. We must also admit that we are a country subordinated to the great powers. This is not the case just with Bolivia; it is the same for a large part of the world, because of the great imbalances and injustices that exist. We hope that a militarization of the coca areas will not occur. [end recording]

Gustavo Fernandez, minister secretary general of the Presidency, has stated that the government does not intend to militarize the coca-producing zones but to strengthen the struggle against drug trafficking.

[Begin Fernandez recording] Repressive actions will not be taken against peasants. The Alternative Development Plan is designed for the peasants. Repressive actions will be limited to drug traffickers. That is our policy, and that is what we are going to implement. First, the preparation of the Armed Forces units [words indistinct] and will carry them out when actions by the specialized forces have not been sufficient. [end recording]

Military's New Role Clarified

PY2203033091 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno said today that the Army, Air Force, and Navy will participate in the struggle against drug trafficking by giving logistic support that will be coordinated with the Bolivian Police.

Saavedra pointed out that the Air Force and Navy are currently cooperating in this task and that the Army's [words indistinct] according to the country's needs for its struggle against drug trafficking and with the authorization of the president of the Republic.

The interior minister insisted that the word militarization has been dismissed.

[Begin Saavedra recording] First, I think the word militarization has been dismissed—or better said, clarified—because the Armed Forces are not the main protagonists in the struggle against drug trafficking because the [words indistinct] continue to be the special forces in charge of fighting drug trafficking. The Armed Forces will give logistic support. [end recording]

Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena added that the government will never allow drug trafficking in Bolivia to gain the power it has in Colombia. To avoid this, he said, the executive branch will adopt the measures it deems necessary, and the participation of the Armed Forces in this task is important.

[Begin Rueda recording] From a technical point of view, there is no such militarization of the struggle against drug trafficking in Bolivia. That is absolutely certain. Within the framework of agreements with the United States—which are not new but left over from some time ago, even as long ago as 1960—this does not mean a militarization, it merely means that as a precautionary measure, within the framework of the agreements, advisers will train military personnel so they will be able to fight drug trafficking should it become necessary, and always provided that President Jaime Paz Zamora so decides within the framework of the country's sovereignty. [end recording]

Rueda added that the struggle against drug trafficking is essentially a police task with the support of the Armed Forces.

Brazil

States Declare Moratoriums on Public Debt

PY2103035091 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Mar 91 p 4

[Text] The governors of the states of Minas Gerais, Rondonia, Piaui, and Mato Grosso do Sul yesterday decreed a moratorium on their debts, admitting that there was no other solution. They have thus joined the ranks of state executives from Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Bahia, Pernambuco, and Maranhao, whose first decisions on 18 March were to announce to their creditors that they cannot pay their debts at the present time.

Yesterday in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais State, Governor Helio Garcia unilaterally decided to decree a 45-day moratorium on state debt payments. Garcia also asked Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello to grant the state a loan of 30 billion cruzeiros to pay public workers salaries.

In Porto Velho, Rondonia State, Governor Oswaldo Pianna (PTR) [Workers Renewal Party] decreed a 120-day moratorium on public debts and called it a "Plan for the Recovery of Governability." Pianna said Rondonia's total debt was 50 billion cruzeiros, that most of it was owed to building contractors, and that the monthly rent bill amounts to 3 billion cruzeiros.

"I would not be able to make any debt payments, even if I wanted to or if I stopped paying public workers salaries for one or two years," Piaui State Governor Freitas Neto (PFL) [Liberal Front Party] said in Teresina. Most public workers have not been paid since November. Freitas Neto did not declare a moratorium. In practice, however, a moratorium is in effect because the state treasury is empty.

Yesterday in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul State, Governor Pedro Petrossian (PTB) [Brazilian Labor Party] suspended all official publicity contracts for 60 days. Petrossian's priority is to pay the salaries of public workers, who had occupied the government palace since February and who agreed to leave only one day before the new government was installed.

Cibilis Viana, Rio de Janeiro State economy and finance secretary, will meet with national economic team experts in Brasilia today to find a definitive solution to the renegotiation of state public debts with the Central Bank totaling $1.5 billion (346.5 billion cruzeiros).

Rio Grande do Sul Governor Alceu Collares (PDT) [Democratic Labor Party] said in Porto Alegre yesterday that the state owes suppliers 30 billion cruzeiros. Collares added, however, that the state will honor its debts with prefectures and public workers first. The 60-day moratorium decreed by the state government will affect nearly 18 billion cruzeiros. Yesterday Collares called President Collor to begin negotiating the state public debt in securities, worth a total of 150 billion cruzeiros.

Yesterday in Recife, Pernambuco State, Governor Joaquim Francisco (PFL) said the two-month moratorium he decreed will give him time to figure out exactly how large the state debt is. Francisco claimed that former Governor Carlos Wilson (PMDB) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] had concealed information from him. Joaquim Francisco said that anyone wanting to be paid will have to prove that he is a creditor of the state government.

On 18 March in Sao Luis, Maranhao State, Governor Edison Lobao (PFL) ordered a 30-day suspension of payments to all building contractors. The state owes them 4.6 billion cruzeiros. The state's outstanding debt totals 414 billion cruzeiros, and it is only partially financed.

In Maceio, Alagoas State, Governor Geraldo Bulhoes (PSC) [Christian Social Party] charged that former Governor Moacir Andrade (PRN) [National Reconstruction Party] engaged in "a spending orgy" with inaugurations and propaganda for his administration which consumed 6.6 billion cruzeiros in just a few days. Bulhoes is having difficulties paying public workers salaries, which amount to 5.4 billion cruzeiros a month.

The first decision by Jose Agripino Maia (PFL), governor of Rio Grande do Norte State, to deal with overhead debts of nearly 10.3 billion cruzeiros was to establish a single cashier's office for the state treasury. Maia also reduced salaried positions to the minimum, canceled contracts on temporary services, reduced the official vehicle fleet, and auctioned vehicles that were not being used.

Government Orders State Companies To Pay Debts

PY2103163691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Excerpt] President Fernando Collor de Mello has met with the ministers of infrastructure and of economy, the secretary for strategic affairs, the national finance secretary, and the presidents of state companies to discuss the debts of the state companies.

The meeting was held at the request of Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello. The government has promised to pay, during the first quarter of this year, 30 percent of the foreign debt interests on the period between January and March. Since some state companies, especially those in the electricity and steel sectors, have not paid their debts, the National Treasury had to shoulder the burden by paying on their behalf.

During the meeting, the president ordered these companies to pay their debts immediately. [passage omitted]

Chile

Bomb Explodes at UDI Building; No Casualties

PA2203045191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0431 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Santiago, 21 Mar (NOTIMEX)—A bomb exploded tonight at the headquarters of the Independent Democratic Union (UDI), of rightist persuasion, without causing casualties, the local police have reported.

The medium-intensity device caused structural damage to the UDI building in southern Santiago. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.

Last week, the [Lautaro] Rebel and Popular Forces (FRPL) claimed responsibility for three explosions against Carabinero police garrisons.

Krauss Seeks Antiterrorist Aid in Europe

PY2103160491 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 March 91

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss is in Rome, one of the European cities he will visit in his attempt to obtain technical and financial assistance to fight terrorism and crime in Chile.

Minister Krauss has already visited Spain. He has publicly requested the help of Spain because of its experience gained form their fight against terrorist groups like ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] and GRAPO [October First Antifascist Resistance Group].

The struggle of the Italian Christian Democratic Party Government against the Red Brigades is also well known. Most of the Red Brigades leaders were arrested after the Italian government offered huge rewards for their capture. The leaders of the Italian Red Brigades were betrayed by two members of their group and by their lovers, who exchanged information for the money offered by the government.

Minister Krauss also intends to learn how Germany succeeded in neutralizing the formidable cells of the Baader Meinhof Marxist Group—which were responsible for murders, holdups, and kidnappings. The German Government has now arrested most of the leaders of this terrorist organization. It must be remembered that many of the terrorists arrested by the German authorities have suffered nervous breakdowns and committed suicide while in jail. The German Government, however, has not succeeded in unveiling the mysterious way in which these terrorists were able to receive the poison and the pistols that they used to commit suicide inside their prison cells. One way or the other, the effective action of the German police resulted in the dismantling of these extreme leftist groups.

Undoubtedly, the experience of the European countries will greatly help Chile put an end to the increased terrorism and crime that has affected the country and has kept several judges and study committees busy.

According to reports from Rome, Minister Krauss today also met with Msgr. (Angelo Escobar), Vatican secretary of state and former Holy See apostolic nuncio.

Warrant Issued for Arrest of Top CGT Leader

PY2103171891 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Excerpt] The Investigative Police have a warrant for the arrest of Manuel Contrera Loyola, chairman of the Front of Autonomous Organizations (Frenau) and top leader of the General Confederation of Workers. He is charged with illegally selling land to certain groups at Quilicura,

where a workers' settlement was allegedly going to be constructed. [passage omitted]

Judge Eases Ban on Dina Informant Report

PY2103190691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Within the framework of the court case filed by the magazines PAGINA ABIERTA and APSI, Judge (Mario Carroza) of the 1st Santiago Criminal Court has eased the ban on the dissemination of the report made by Luz Arce, a former Dina [National Intelligence Directorate] informer. The ban now only applies to only three court cases on missing prisoners.

Luz Arce has testified that she saw 21 of those included in the Truth and Reconciliation Committee list of missing people at a Dina secret jail known as Villa Grimaldi. [passage omitted]

In October 1990, Luz Arce agreed to testify to these facts in front of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

Establishment of Ties With St. Lucia Announced

PY2103233891 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Summary] The Foreign Ministry has reported that the Governments of Chile and St. Lucia established formal diplomatic relations as of 20 March 1991. Convinced that international peace and security call for cooperation, understanding, and friendship among nations, the Governments of Chile and the Caribbean island have decided to establish relations and strengthen mutual cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, and culture, the Foreign Ministry statement notes.

Colombia

Authorities on Escobar's Interview, Extradition

PA2103172991 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 91

[Text] While more Constituent Assembly members have agreed not to discuss the extradition issue until journalists Francisco Santos and Maruja Pachon are released, DAS [Administrative Department of Security Chief] General Miguel Maza Marquez urged Pablo Escobar to promptly free the two journalists being held captive.

[Begin Maza recording] We are working on the Extraditables' surrender to the authorities. If they do decide to turn themselves in, nothing will happen to them. Nevertheless, before they turn themselves in, it would be helpful for the nation if they release the two journalists, Maruja Pachon and Francisco Santos. [end recording]

The DAS chief was questioned about an interview that Pablo Escobar had granted to the Spanish newspaper EL MUNDO, and in which he would turn himself in to the Colombian authorities when human rights are no longer violated. The chief of the Medellin cartel said he did not wish to continue waging war on the government and that he has always been willing to engage in dialogue. Escobar said that the violence in the country has been generated by his absence. He also said that neither he or his people had murdered Luis Carlos Galan, Bernardo Jaramillo, and Carlos Pizarro Leon. Escobar claims that the national security organizations murdered the M-19 [19 April Movement] leader [Carlos Pizarro Leon] and blamed the killing on drug traffickers. He added that he trusts the Colombian justice system but distrusts its security institutions and its jails.

In this regard the Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta replied:

[Begin Arrieta recording] The State Attorney's Office has made it very clear that it will guarantee the rights of all individuals who surrender to the justice system. [end recording]

The truth of the matter is that Pablo Escobar has not turned himself in, nor has he released Maruja Pachon and Francisco Santos, who were kidnapped six months ago. Nothing has been heard from the two journalists for the past two months.

Rebels Kidnap, Later Release 65 Police, Soldiers

PA2103225691 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Numbers are heard]

[Text] Bogota—In an action without precedence in the history of the country, the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] has kidnapped in a single day 65 members of the military forces, including a National Police officer, in Antioquia and Santander Departments. Meanwhile in Medellin, 13 bombs went off. According to a report by the authorities, ELN [Army of National Liberation] rebels kidnapped 46 soldiers of the National Army's 4th Brigade that were aboard a train. This happened in the Cabanas railway station, located between the Berrio Port and Caracoli Municipalities in Antioquia's Middle Magdalena region

In Santa Elena de Lopon Municipality, in the Middle Magdalena region, the CNG stormed the town, killing four policemen and wounding three. During the attack, 17 policemen were kidnapped, including one officer and one NCO [noncommissioned officer]. In addition, the guerrillas seized the police garrison's weapons, ammunition, and communications equipment.

In Medellin, presumed members of a CNG urban cell placed 13 bombs in different parts of the city. Some of the bombs were placed in electricity towers, leaving a vast sector of Medellin without energy.

Attention, this is a last minute report. The 48 kidnapped soldiers of the 14th Brigade have just been released in

Caracoli, according to a report by the municipal office. This is a last minute report.

Peru

Prime Minister Exhorts People To Pay Taxes

PY2103023491

[Editorial report] Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish at 0158 GMT on 21 March begins to carry a live speech to the nation, broadcast in progress, by Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, Peruvian prime minister and foreign minister.

Torres y Torres Lara states that he is speaking to the nation about a very important problem: tax evasion. He notes that the government is working to reduce inflation and implement structural changes in the economy. To accomplish these goals, he says, people must pay their taxes. He comments: "Noncompliance with tax obligations—besides being unethical—harms society because it attacks the principle of solidarity and reflects an individualism that encourages social disintegration."

The minister highlights the fact that Peru's revenue from taxes has actually dropped. He also says that the government's efforts to equally distribute wealth are inhibited by tax evasion and that the government is working to reform and modernize the tax system.

Torres y Torres Lara calls on all citizens to declare their actual income and pay the appropriate taxes. Tax evasion must be defeated, he says, and it will be possible to do so with everyone's contribution.

The minister concludes his speech saying that Peru, to achieve its goals, requires taxpayers to make their payments. He ends his speech by pointing out: "This is an appeal to the conscience of all contributors."

Prime Minister on Anti-Drug Fight, Budget

PY2203000191 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Prime Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara today announced that the government will carry out an all-out struggle against drug trafficking. He also described the judges' decision [not further identified] to bring him to trial due to an alleged salary cutback as a misunderstanding.

[Begin recording] [Torres y Torres Lara] The most important issue will be the anti-drug accord we will sign with the United States. This will be a significant step toward initiating the moralization campaign within our economy.

[Unidentified reporter] Minister, when is this accord going to be signed?

[Torres y Torres Lara] We have not yet set a specific date. We are watching the great ongoing debate on this issue.

[Reporter] What should Peruvians do in the meantime?

[Torres y Torres Lara] I think the most important thing is for Peruvians to be aware that our economy must not continue to be dependent on drug trafficking. We have to take immediate action to overcome this situation, or our economy as a whole will become completely immoral.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Torres y Torres Lara] The modernization of the economy is the most important action the government is taking to create jobs. We have brought an end to a completely controlled economy to establish a free economy, an economy that trusts in the capacity of Peruvians to create jobs. Liberalization measures imply making efforts toward modernization, and these efforts can be very difficult for some enterprises. In a general sense, however, these measures will have a positive effect for those who want to develop new enterprises. There are new possibilities. We have to trust in the capacity of the people to create small and medium-size enterprises.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, last night you said the government will stay within its fiscal spending allocations. However, an additional credit of 90 billion intis has been requested for the 1990 fiscal year. How will this budget be financed?

[Torres y Torres Lara] Some adjustments must be made to income and expenditures. I can tell you that we are making adjustments at the Foreign Ministry and other ministries. We will close some embassies, taking into account the new conditions prevailing in the world.

[Reporter] How many embassies?

[Torres y Torres Lara] We have not yet made a decision on the number of embassies to be closed. We have to substantially reduce the Foreign Ministry's expenditures abroad and become more effective at the international level. We have to open our embassies in keeping with the needs of the modern world and the relations we have with the [word indistinct]. [end recording]

Fujimori Promises Comprehensive Security Measures

PY2103180691 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Excerpt] President Alberto Fujimori has said that national security will be handled in a comprehensive manner. He spoke after a private dinner with his ministers at a local hotel restaurant. The meeting ended near midnight.

The president and the entire cabinet held a long meeting at a Lima hotel. We can now see the president as he leaves the hotel in the company of the prime minister

and of the communications minister. [video shows President Fujimori and officials leaving hotel]

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Did you hold a cabinet meeting this evening?

[Fujimori] Well, we continued the session. We addressed the pending issues of the council of ministers' meeting. Today we principally addressed the security issue. To this end, in addition to the ministers, I summoned the commanders of our Armed Forces. We evaluated the current situation, its possibilities, and prospects. Actually, we made a comprehensive analysis of the security issue.

[Reporter] What were the conclusions?

[Fujimori] Well, we addressed the issue from several angles. For example, from the viewpoint of basic services. The marginalized sectors of the population must have access to these services as much as possible. Today we had direct contact with the people in the neighborhoods of Horacio Zeballos and Cruz de Motupe. Those are two examples, but this situation actually affects 30 percent of the population. Their minimum needs must be met. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Argentina Lifts Limits on Some Peruvian Imports

PY2203014491 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella today announced that Argentina has lifted restrictions on the importation of Peruvian thermo-processed [termo procesados] products. Di Tella spoke with the media after visiting cholera patients at Loayza Hospital. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Di Tella] Yes, Argentina did adopt some preventive measures on Peruvian imports, but we now think that some of the restrictions can be lifted. We are willing to lift some restrictions as soon as possible, when the two parties reach an agreement.

[Reporter] What Peruvian imports will no longer be prohibited in Argentina?

[Di Tella] Well, all thermo-processed products. A resolution was recently issued lifting restrictions on such products, especially after an inspection of the processing plants demonstrated that there are no problems. This has already been decided, and the measure is already in effect.

[Reporter] When was the restriction lifted?

[Di Tella] Within the past few days. [end recording]

Venezuela

Demonstrations Reported; 1 Student Killed

PA2203034091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2328 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Caracas, 21 Mar (EFE)—Today, Merida, Valera, and Caracas were the scenes of disturbances aimed at protesting the deaths of two students, Venezuelan authorities have reported.

In Valera, approximately 10,000 people participated in the funeral of 22-year-old Ramon Cardenas, who bled to death yesterday. The circumstances of his death, which occurred as he participated in a demonstration, have not been clarified.

Valera and Merida, in the Andes, have been occupied by military forces, supported by armored vehicles, to prevent further incidents.

In Merida, the students stopped their protest momentarily to accompany the body of fellow student Matias Paez, who died earlier in the day.

Paez and three other students were wounded by gunshots from soldiers who, according to the official report, fired into the air to keep the demonstrators from looting a grocery truck.

Some radio stations reported the death of another of the wounded students. The stations advised that they were unable to confirm the report.

In Caracas, groups of students confronted the police near the central university of Venezuela, the country's most important, and heavily congested area in the capital.

Guyana

Carter Center, Others To Observe Registration

FL2003155991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1113 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 20, CANA—Guyana's controversial voter registration programme is coming under international scrutiny. Teams from the Carter Centre in the United States and from the Commonwealth Secretariat are due here shortly to look at the registration.

Commonwealth secretary general, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, has written Guyana President Desmond Hoyte advising him that a mission from the secretariat will be arriving shortly to be an "integral part of the observer exercise."

The Commonwealth Secretariat has been invited to mount an observer mission to monitor general elections expected later this year. The team from the Carter Centre will arrive in two groups, with the main body being led by Belize Prime Minister George Price.

The registration process has worried opposition politicians, who complain it is dogged by problems, including tardiness. One political party, the Working People's Alliance, has even launched its own registration exercise.